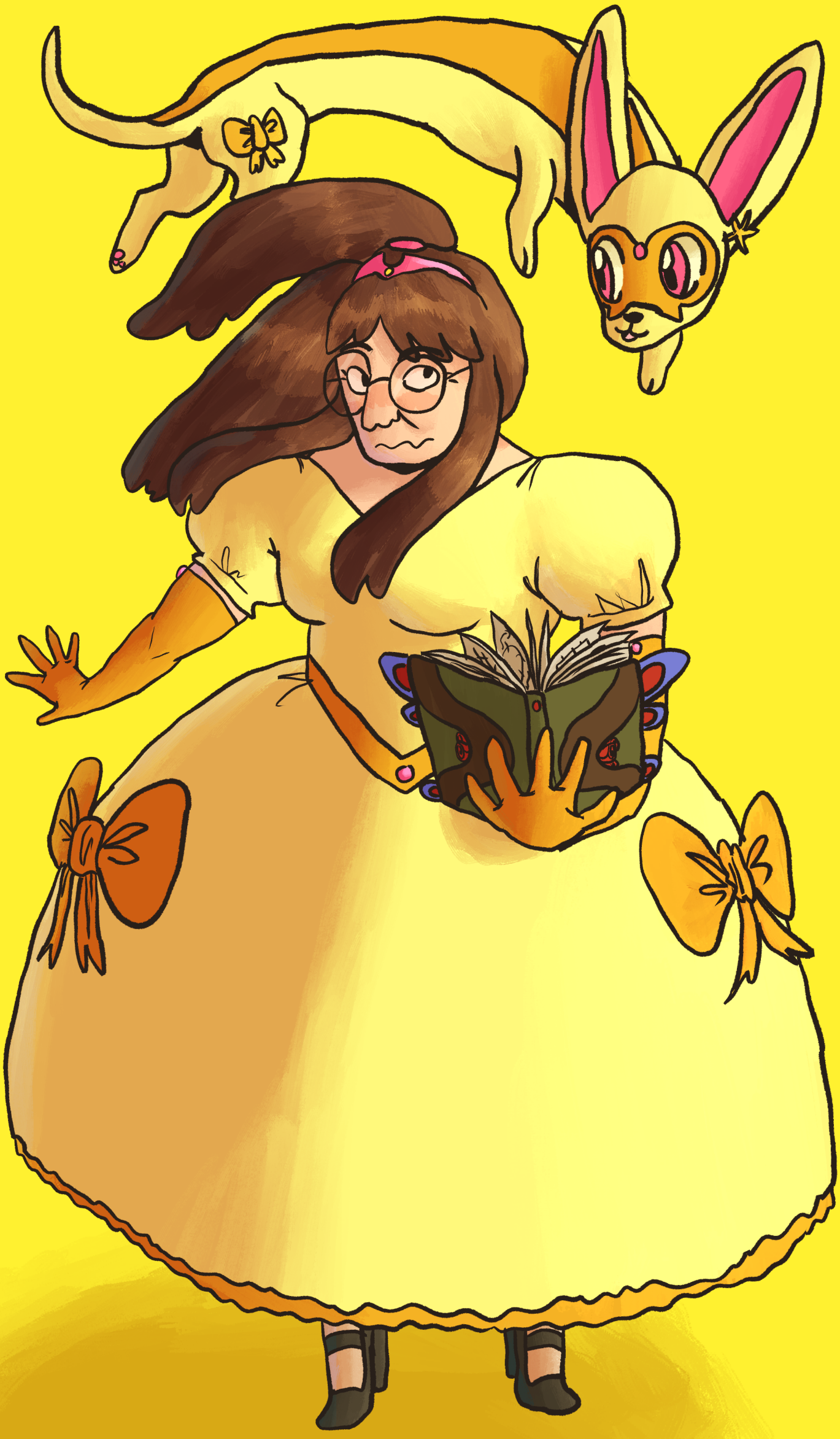
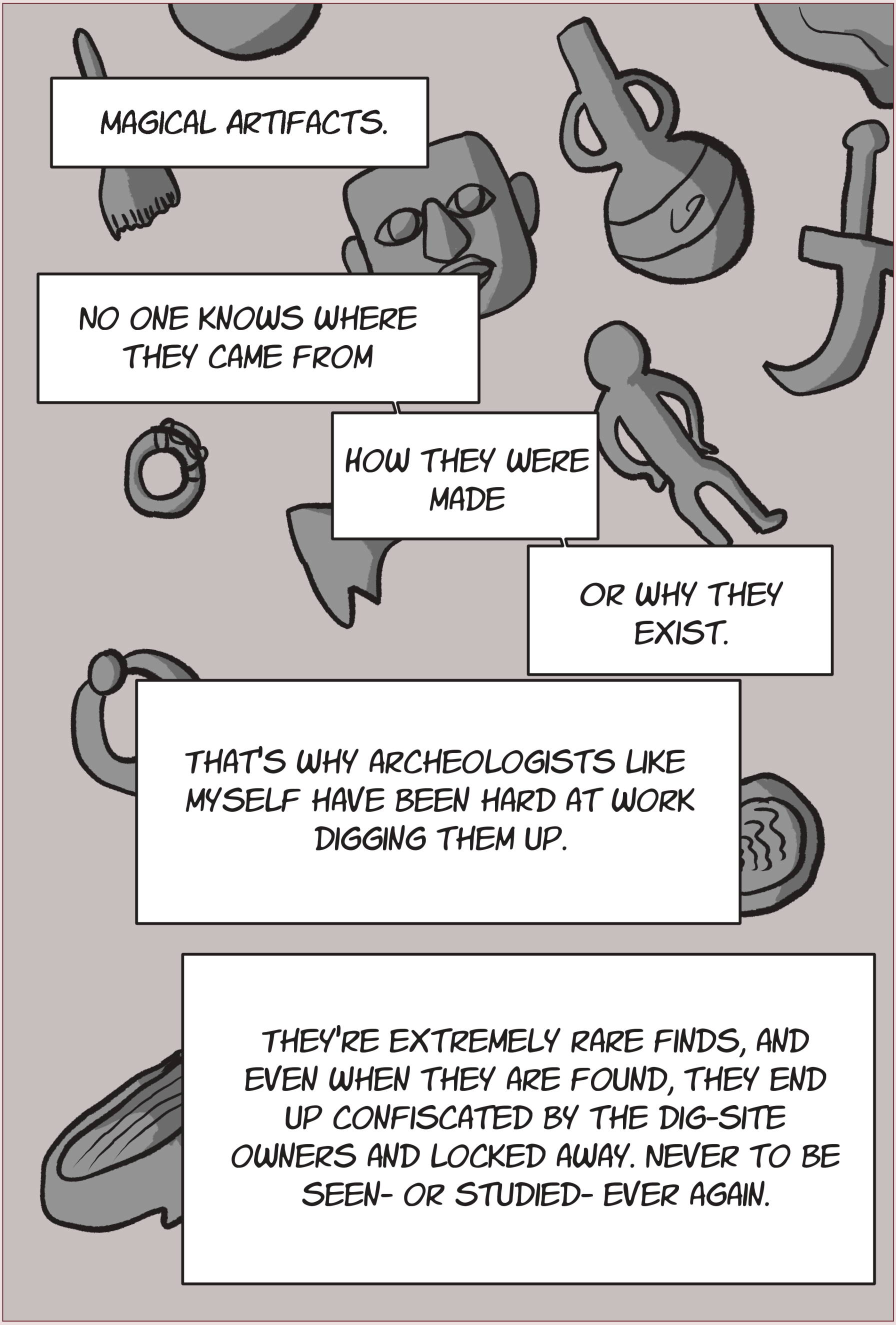
TOPAZ



CHAPTER ONE


MAGICAL ARTIFACTS.
NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THEY CAME FROM
HOW THEY WERE MADE
OR WHY THEY EXIST.
THAT'S WHY ARCHEOLOGISTS LIKE MYSELF HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK DIGGING THEM UP.
THEY'RE EXTREMELY RARE FINDS, AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE FOUND, THEY END UP CONFISCATED BY THE DIG-SITE OWNERS AND LOCKED AWAY. NEVER TO BE SEEN- OR STUDIED- EVER AGAIN.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO STUDY ONE; LEARN THE INTRICACIES, WHAT KIND OF MAGIC IT USES,

TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT ERA IT CAME FROM.

BUT IN ALL MY YEARS OF DIGGING, I'VE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO FIND ONE

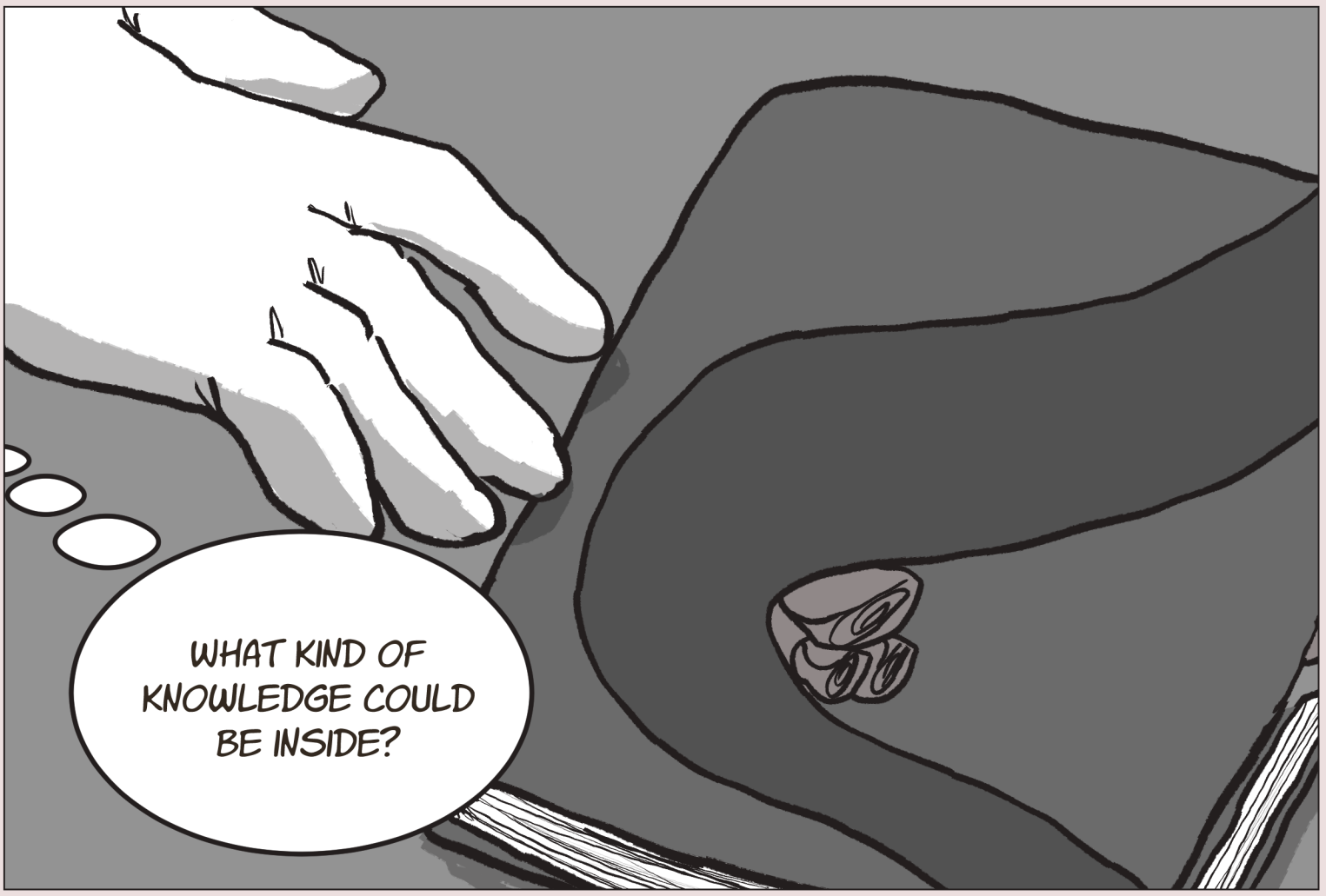
UNTIL...

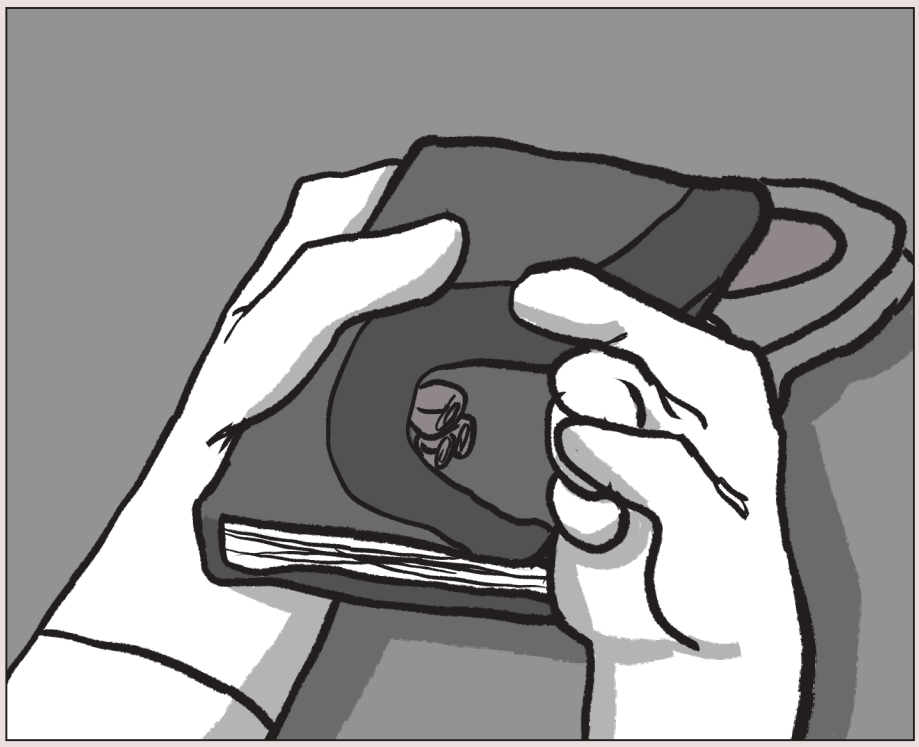
brush

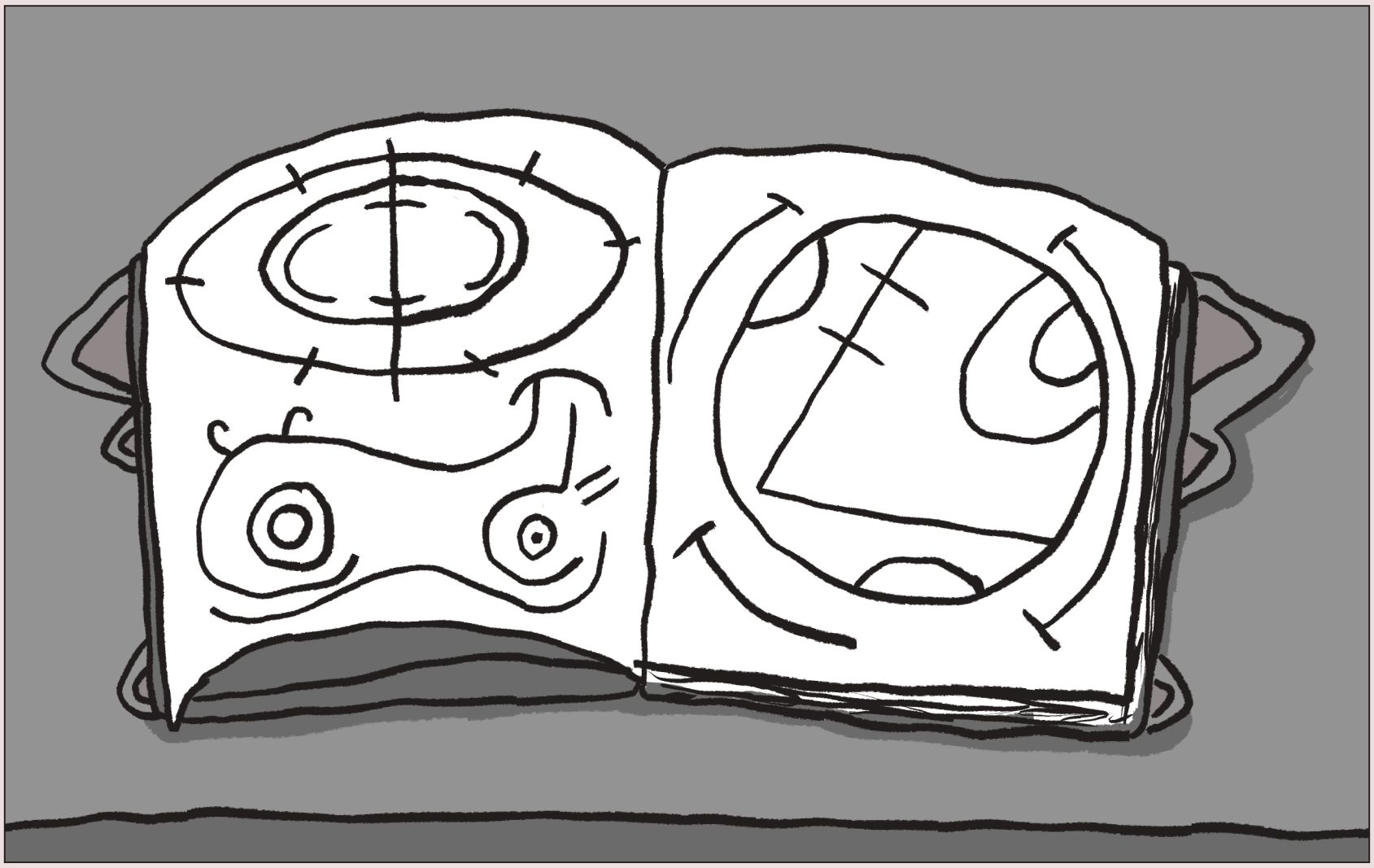
brush

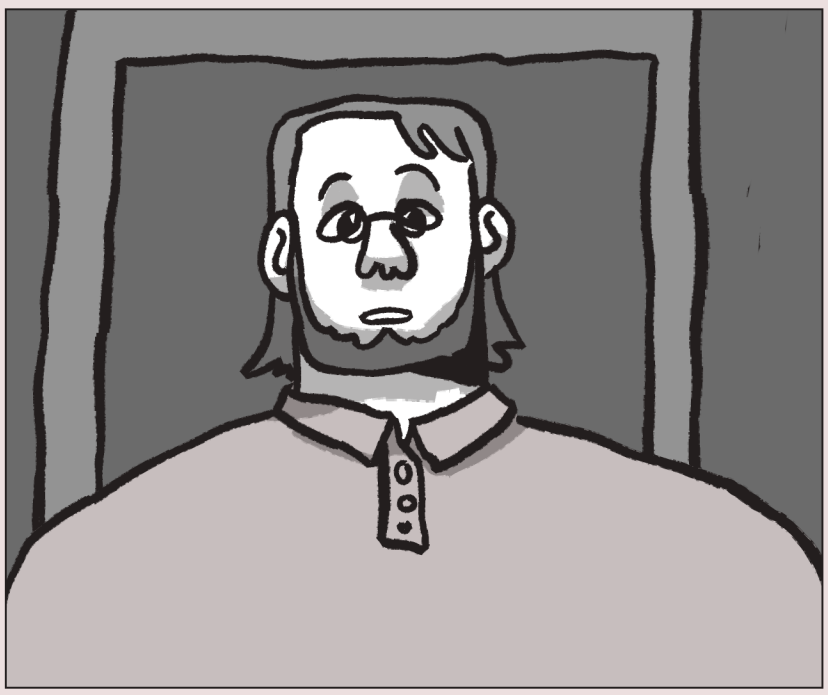
glance

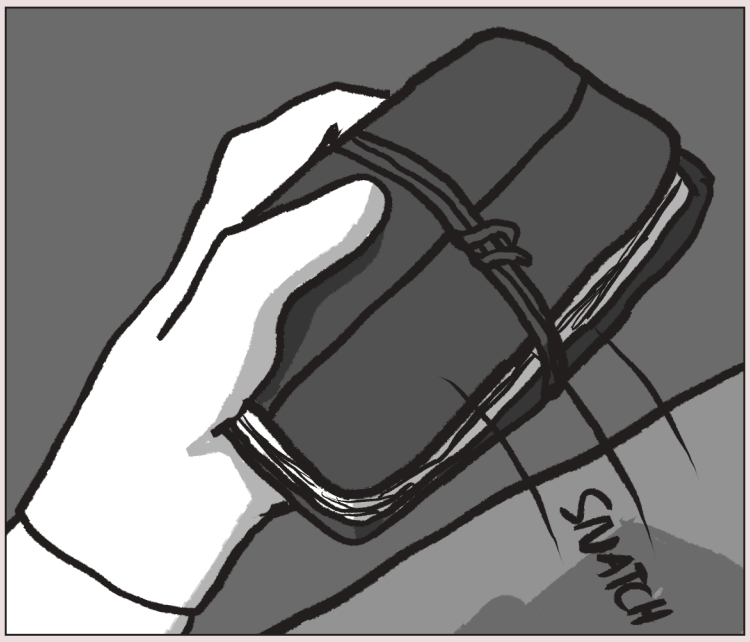
glance

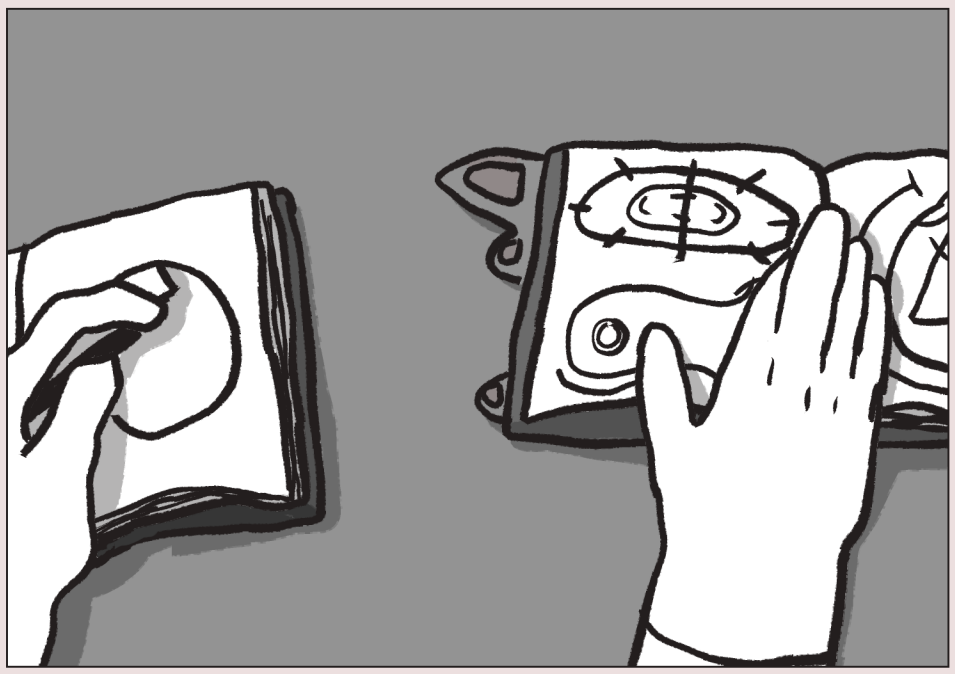

WHAT KIND OF KNOWLEDGE COULD BE INSIDE?

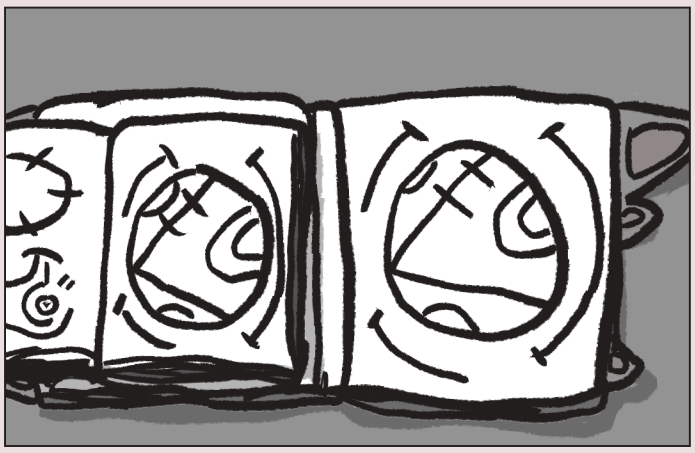


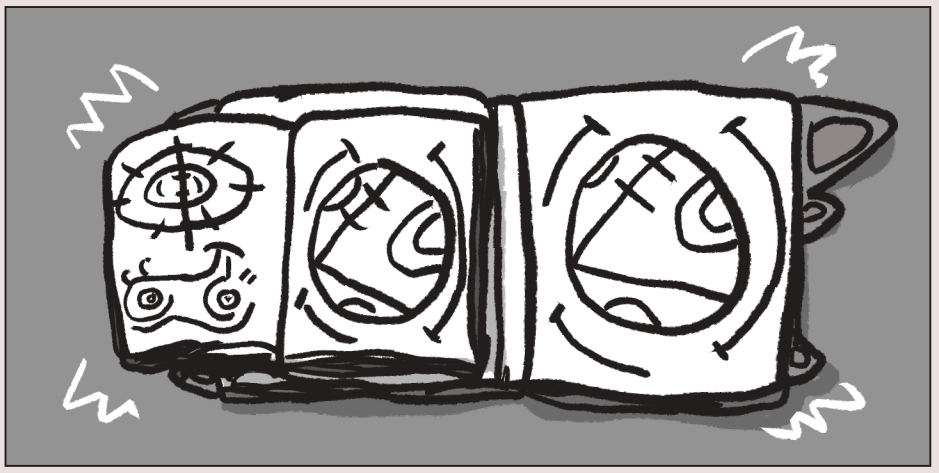


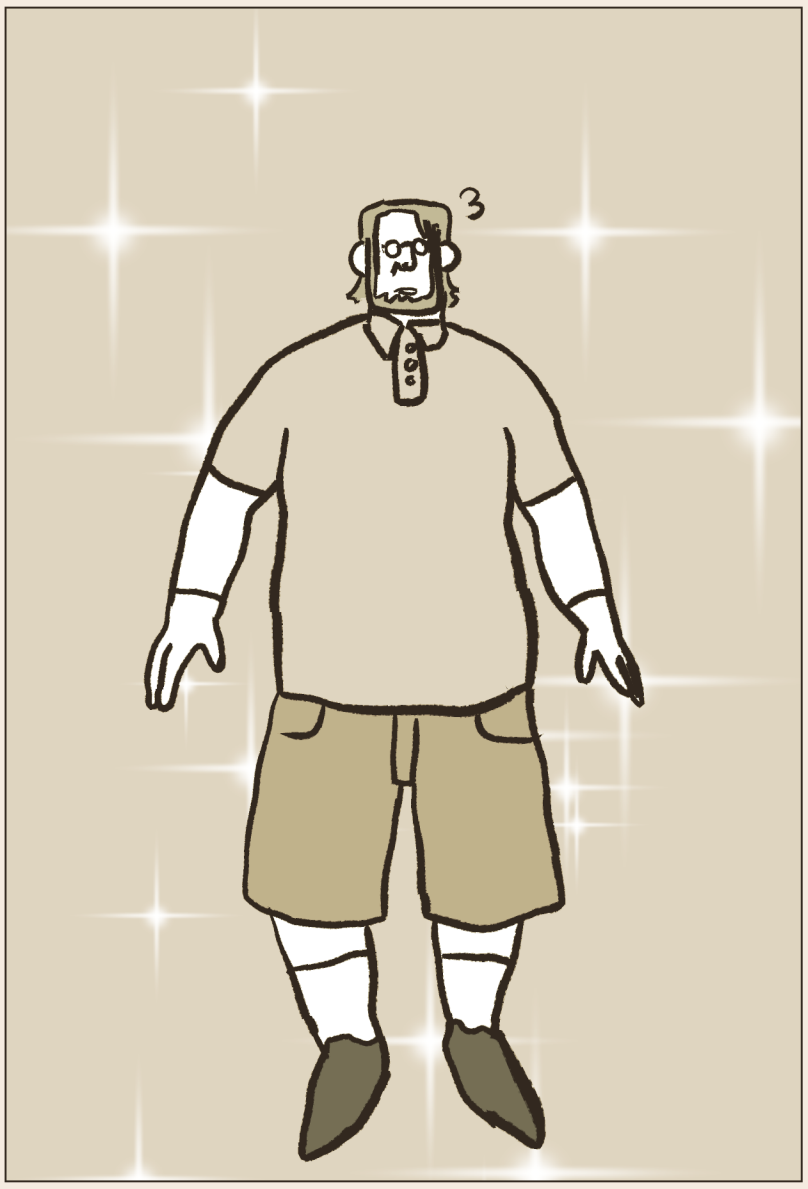



SWATCH





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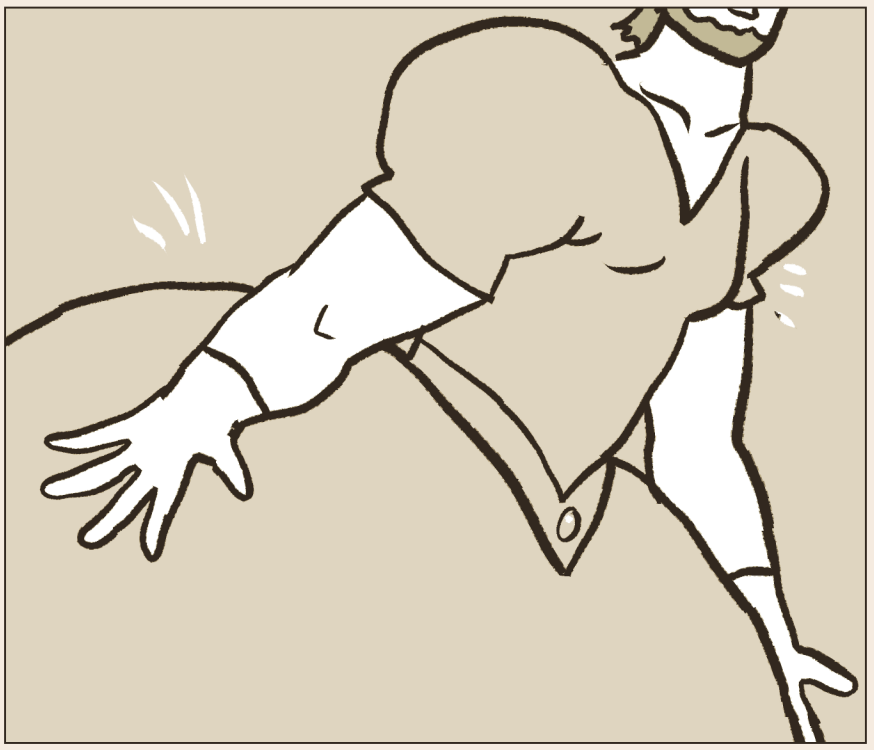
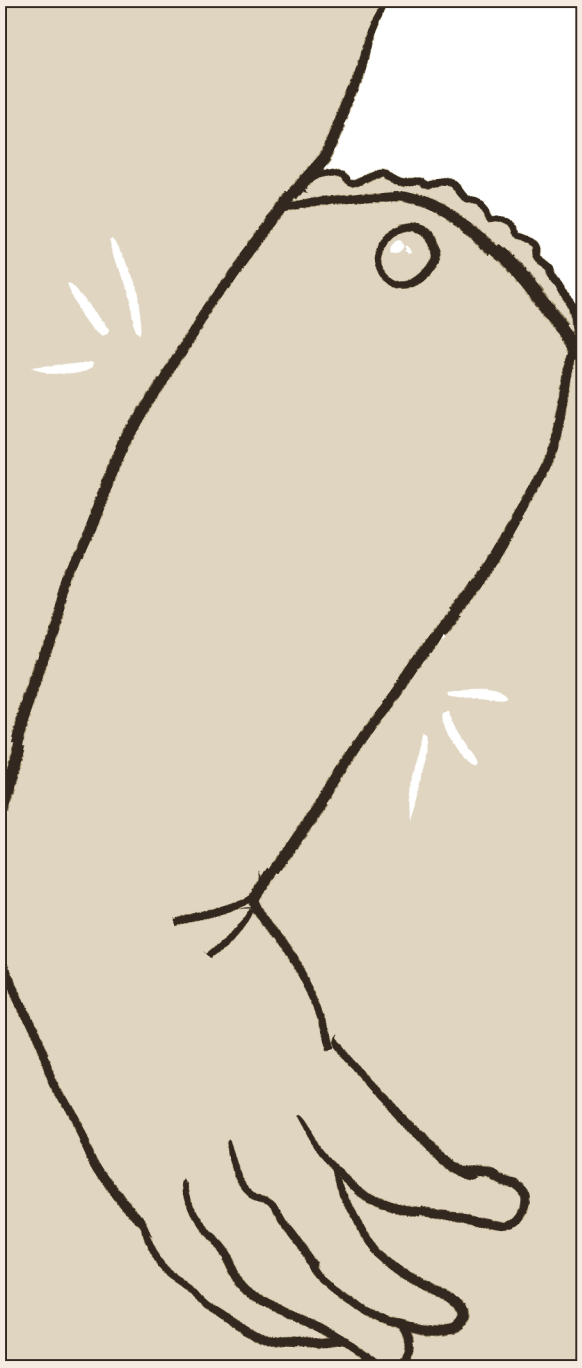
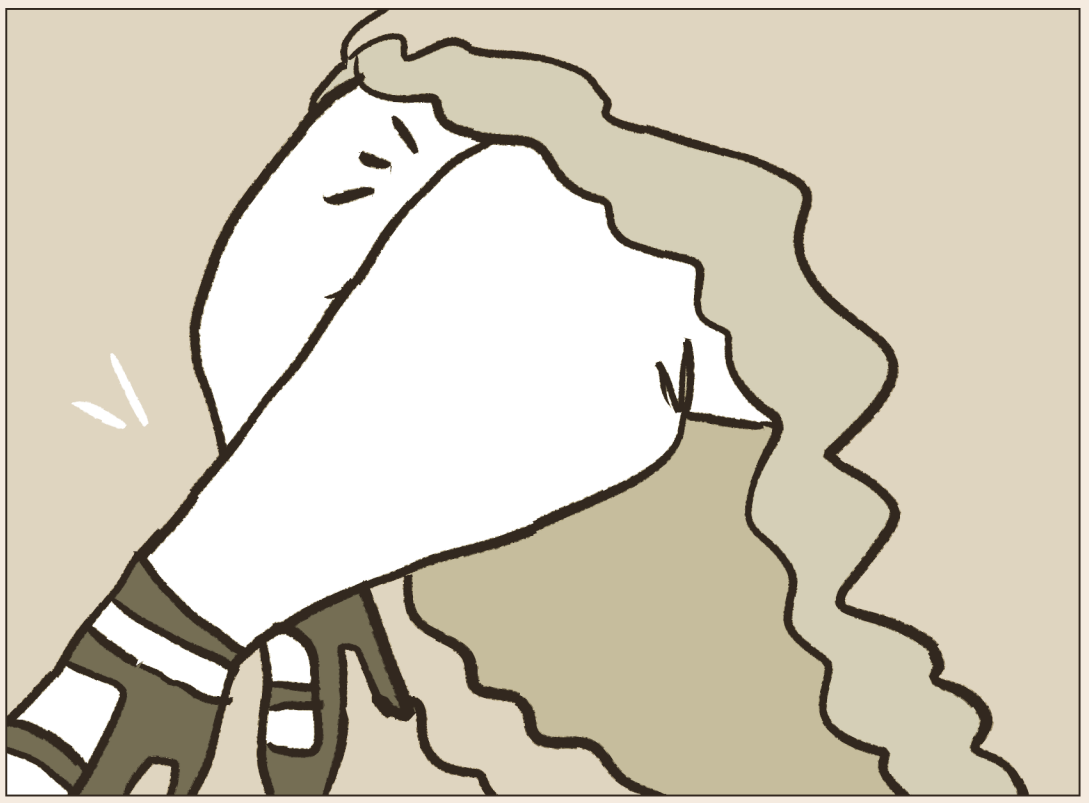
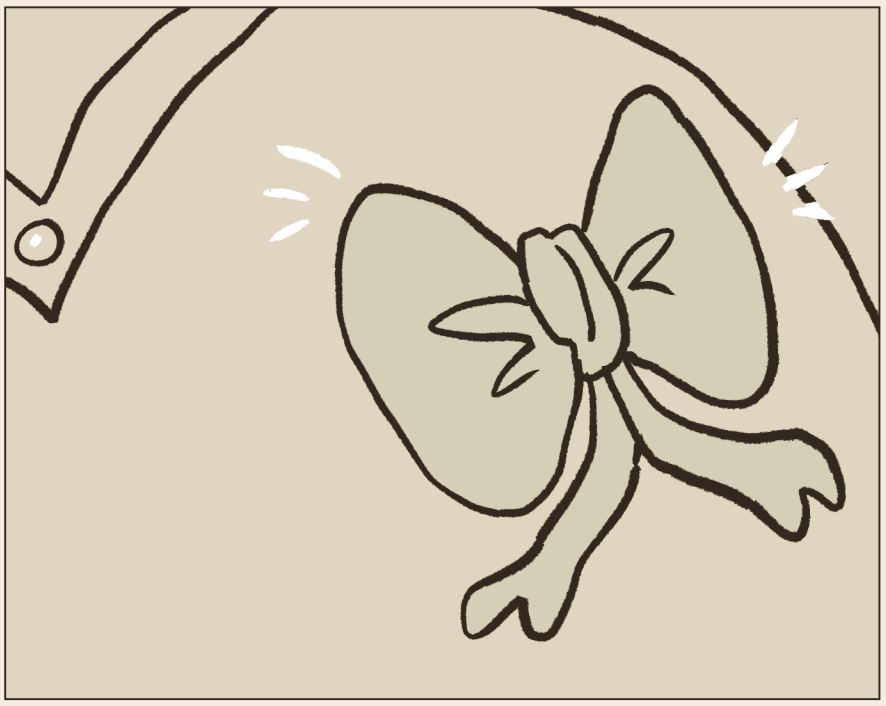
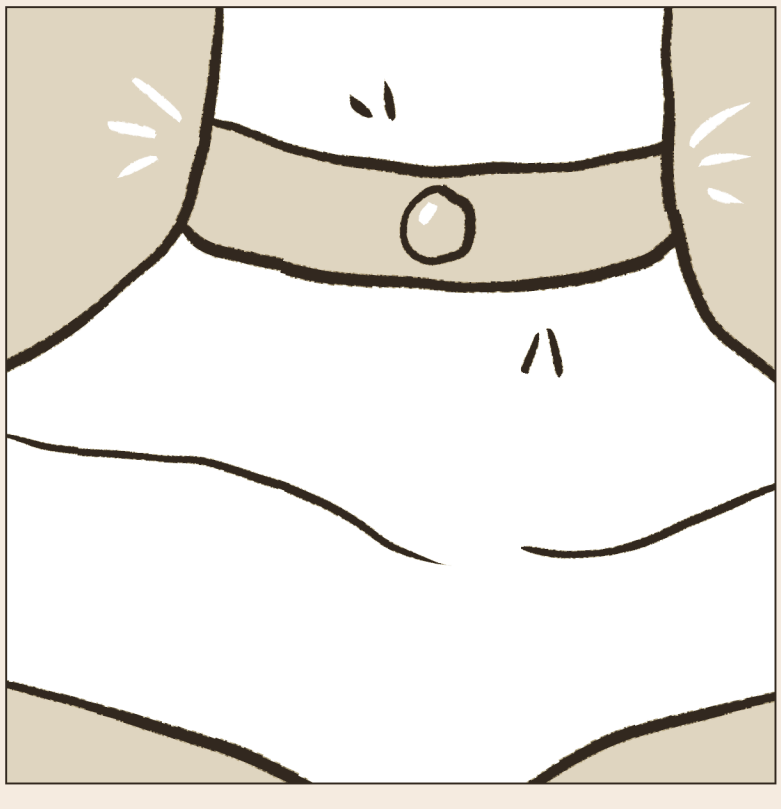
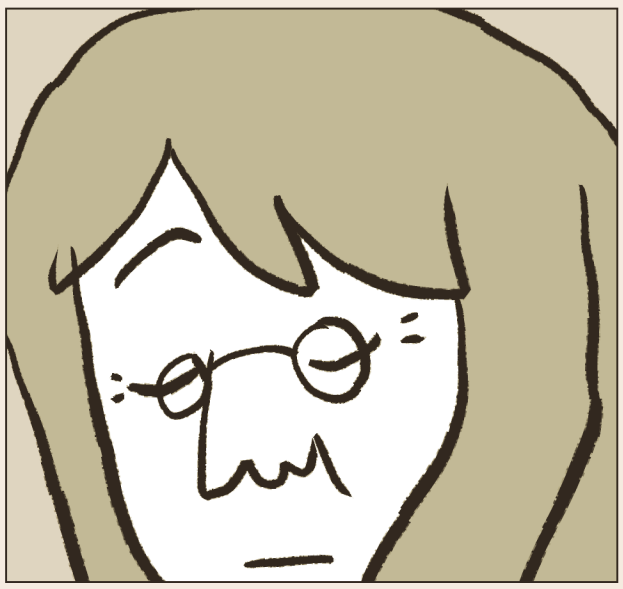


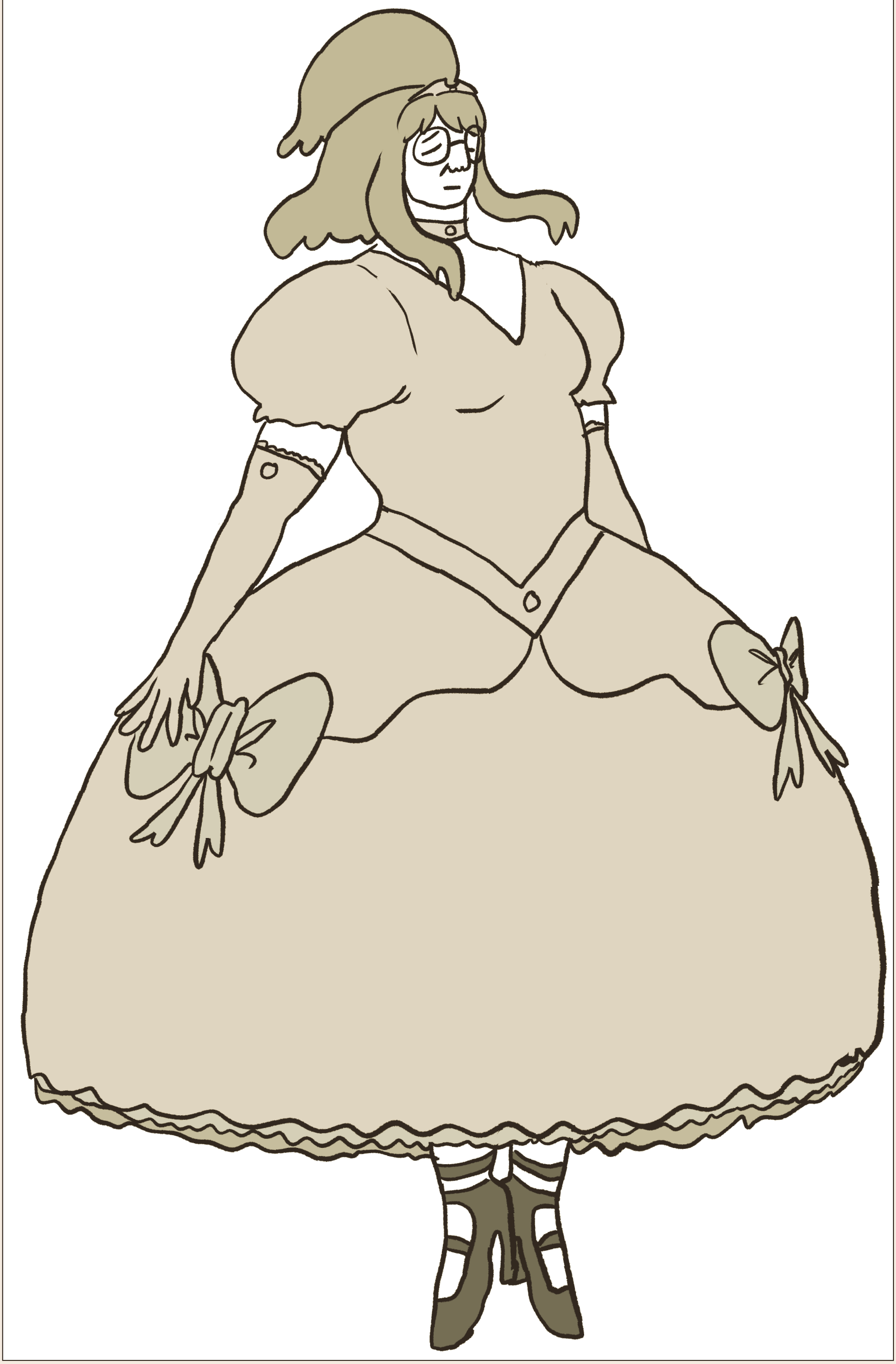




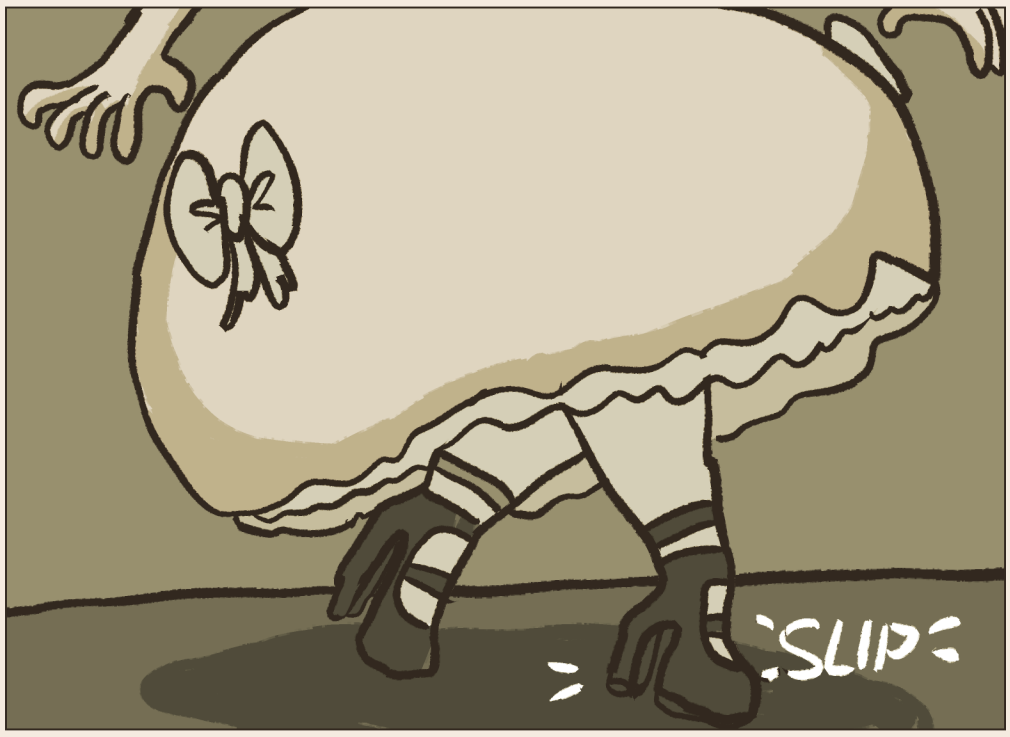


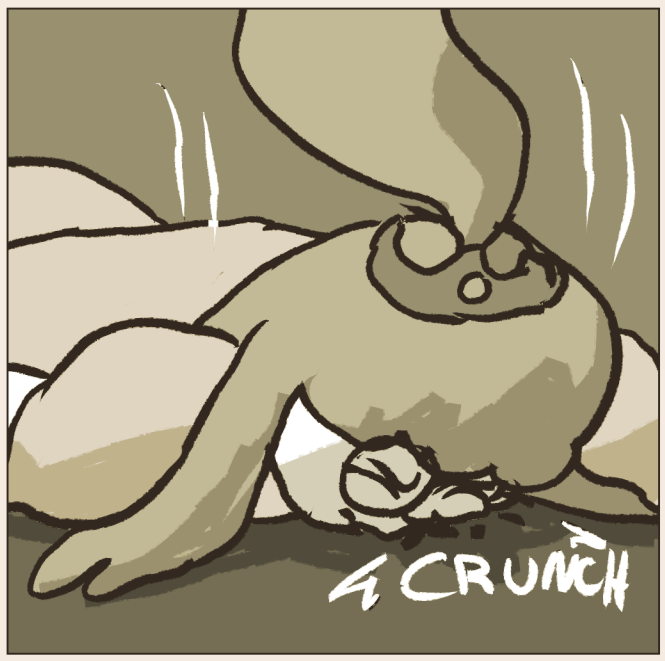


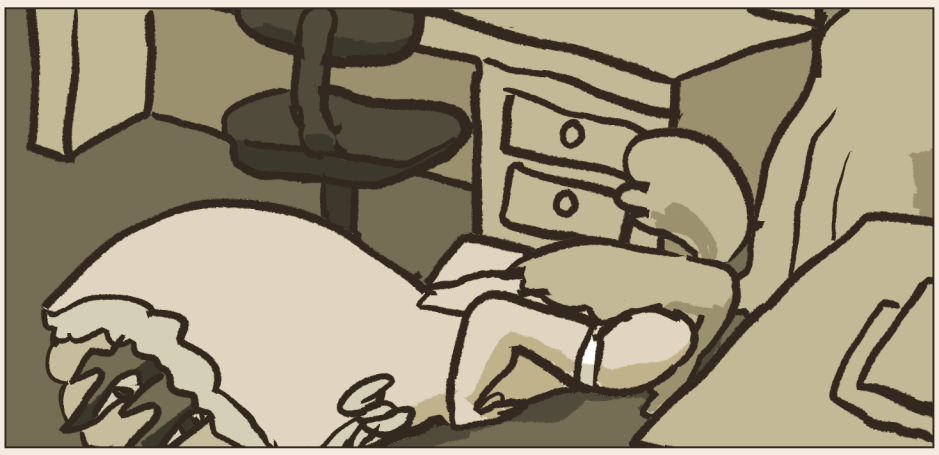


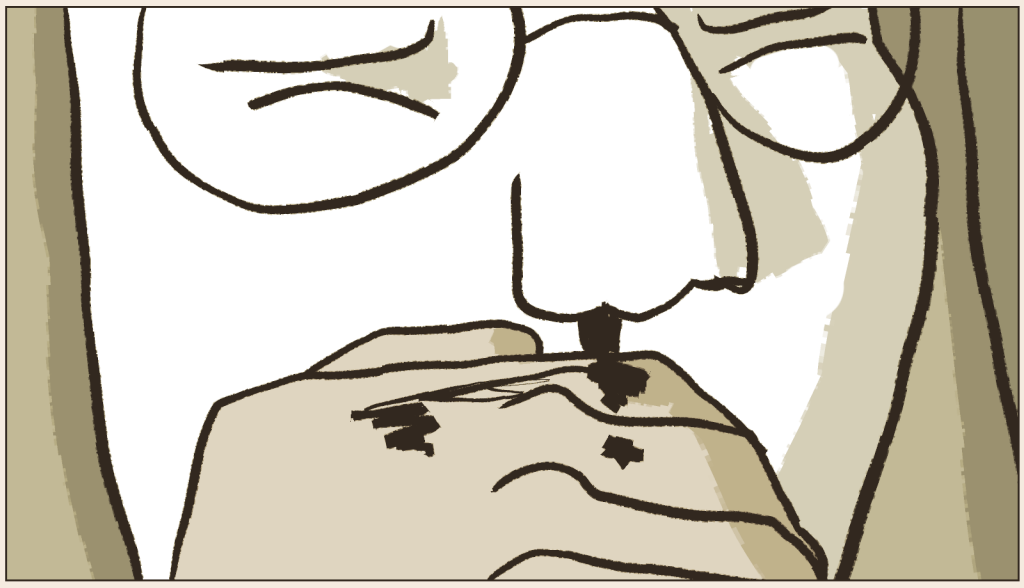


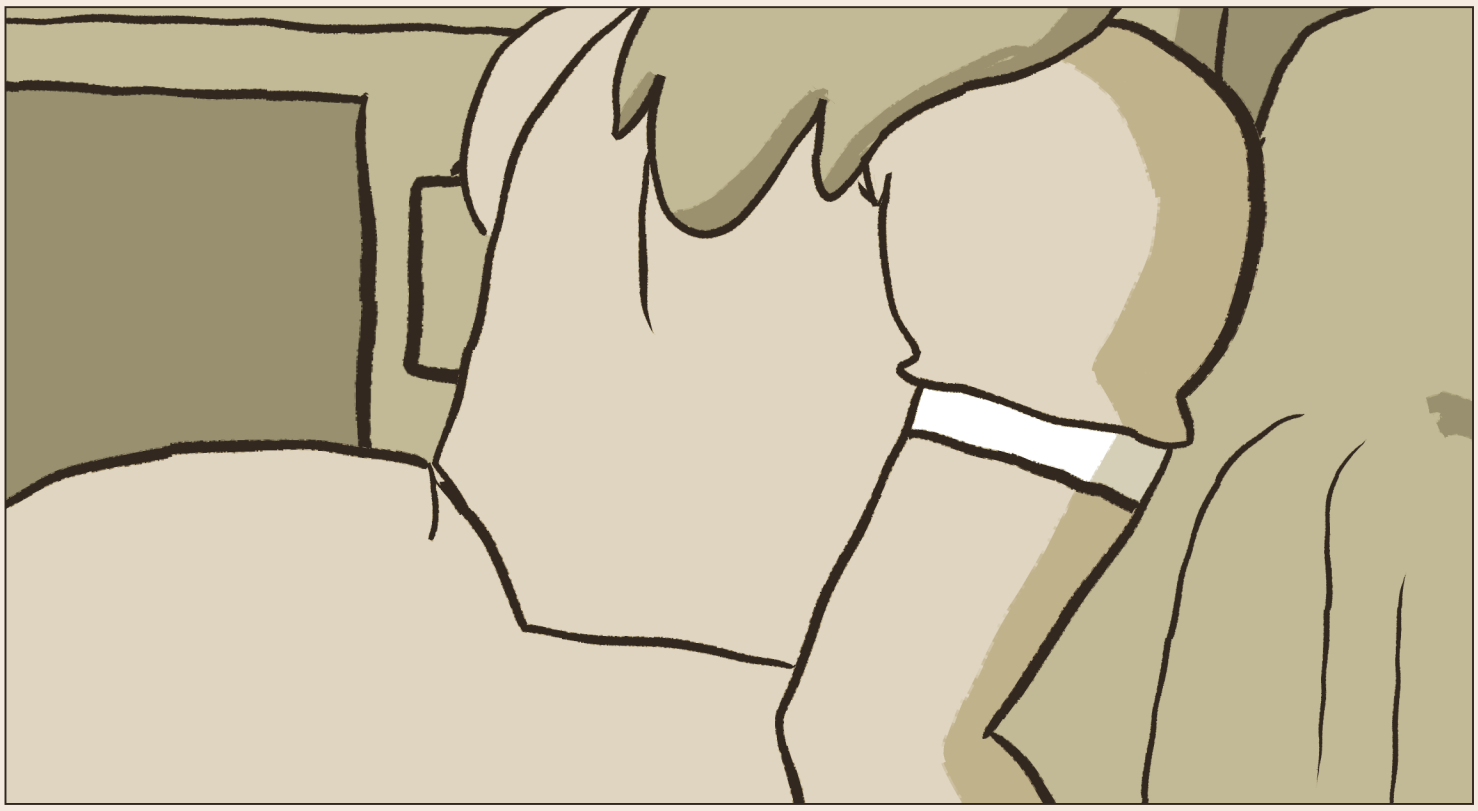
wobble

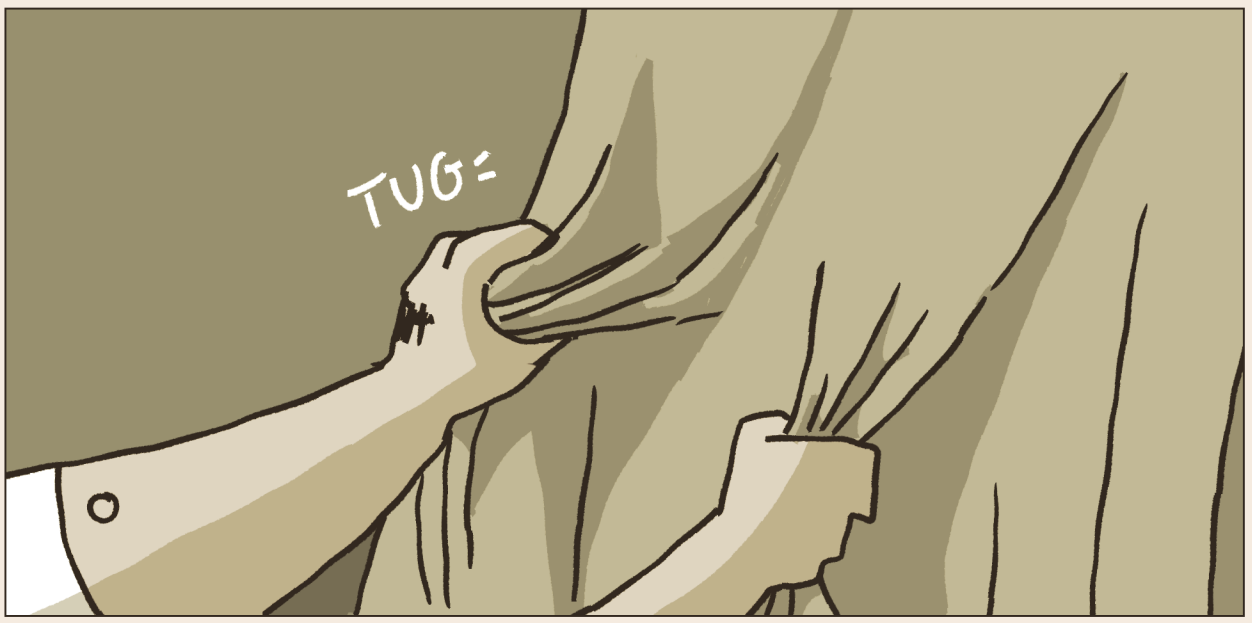

SLIP

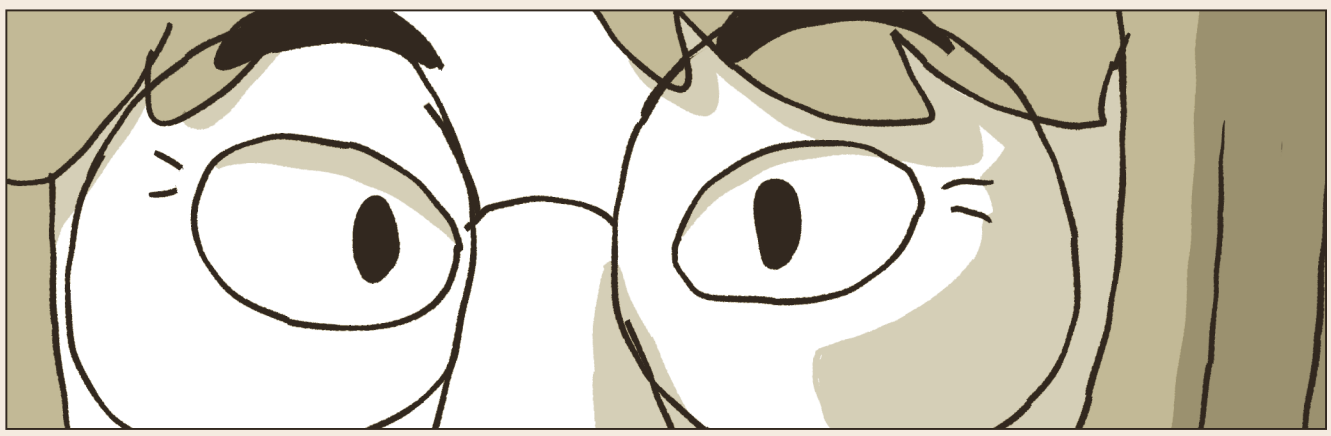

CRUNCH

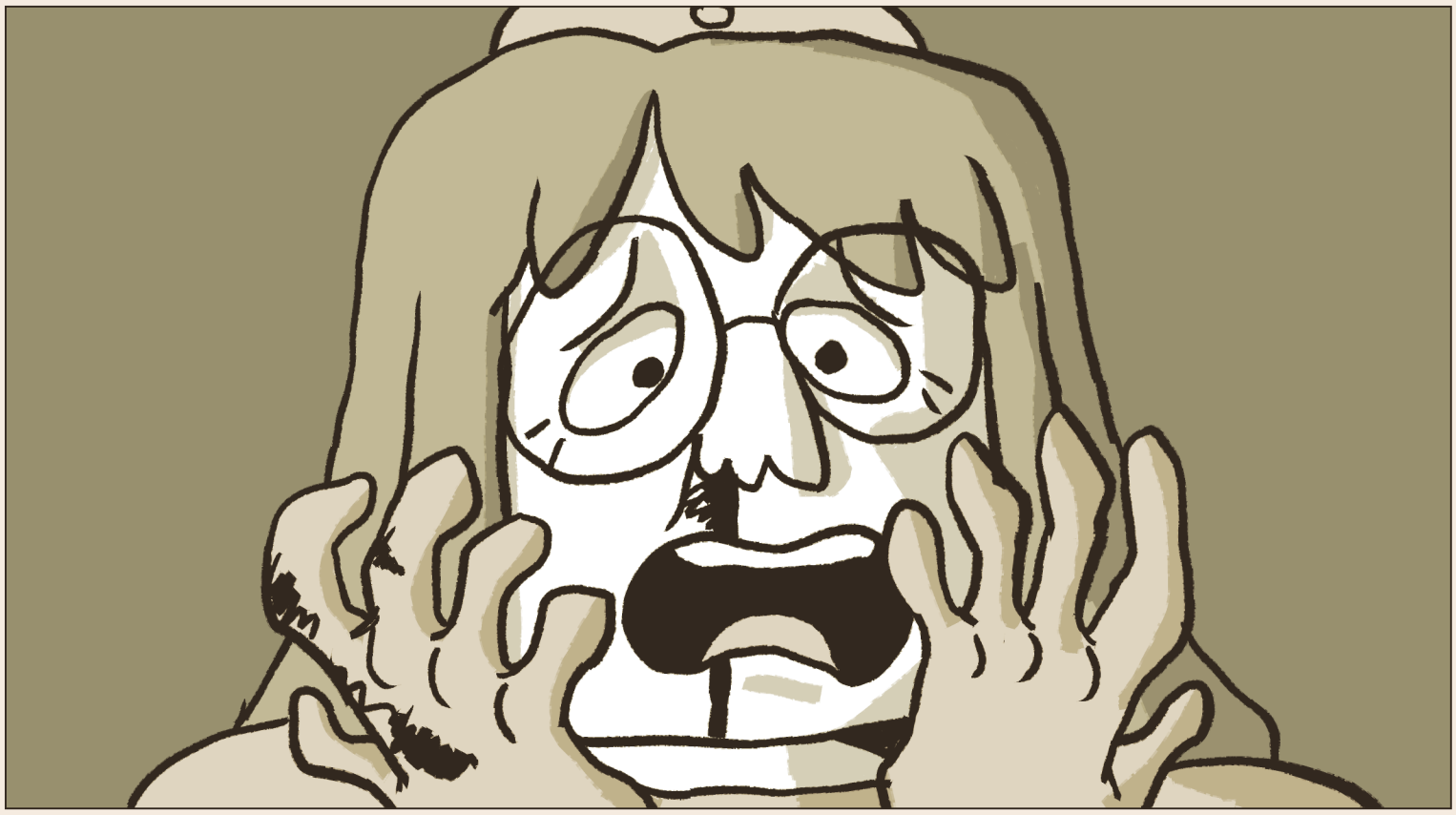


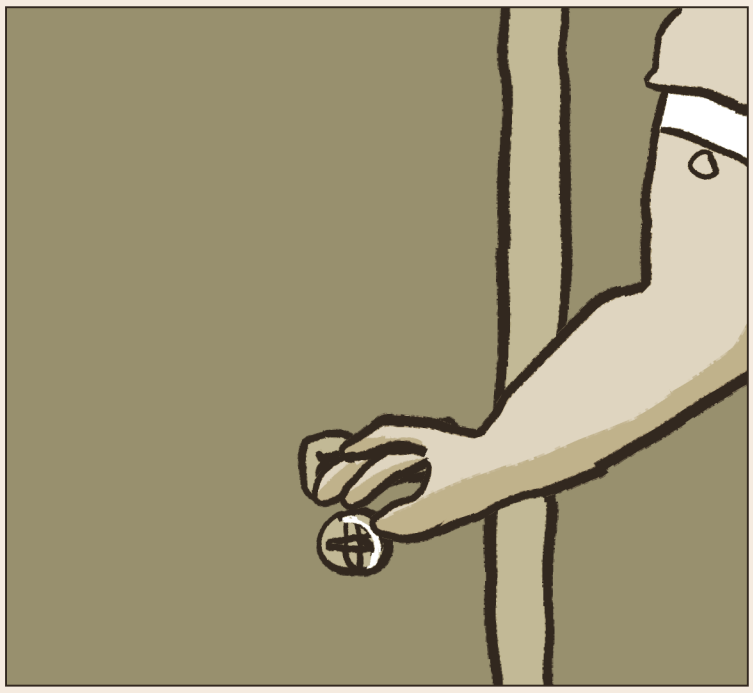


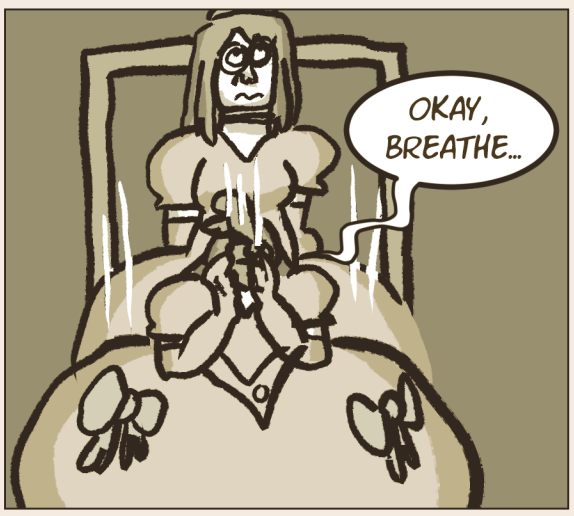



TUG=

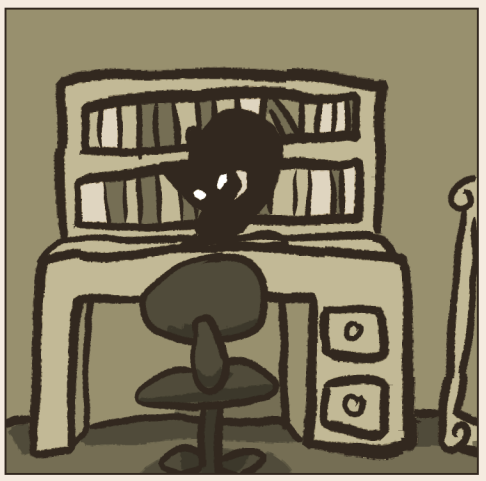


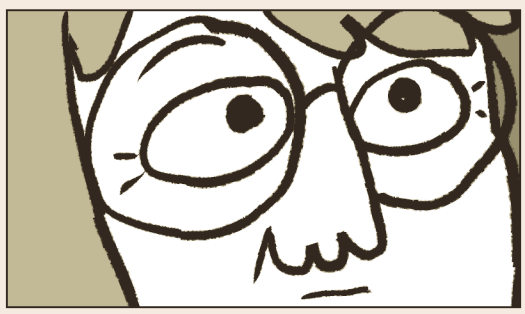


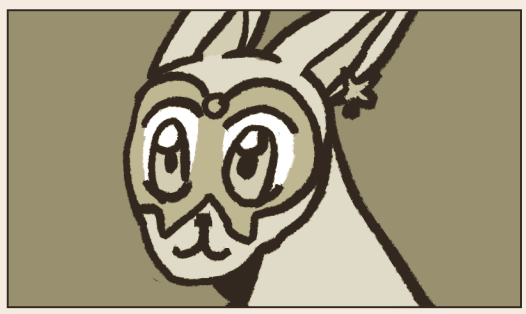


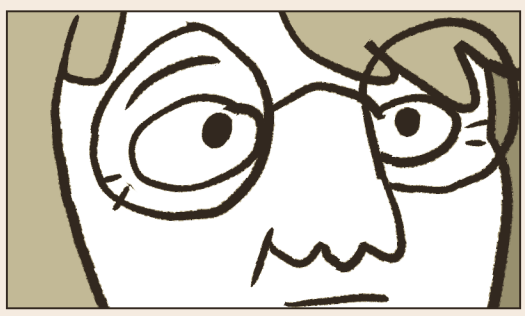

OKAY,
BREATHE...

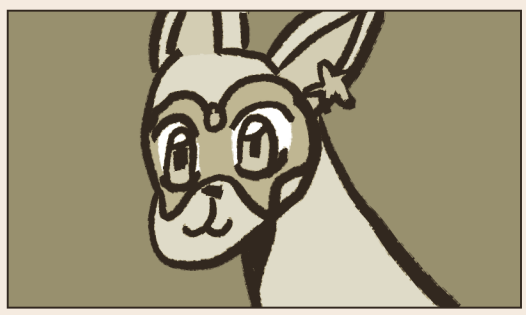
clarice

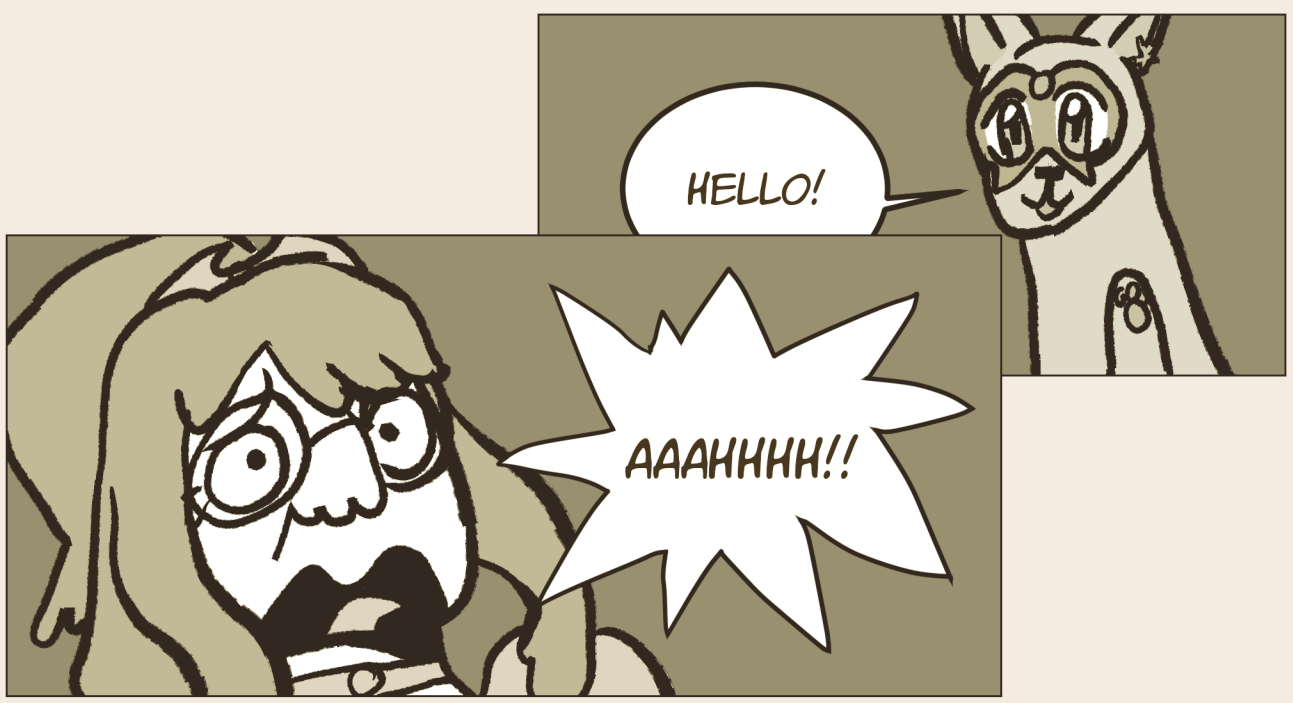




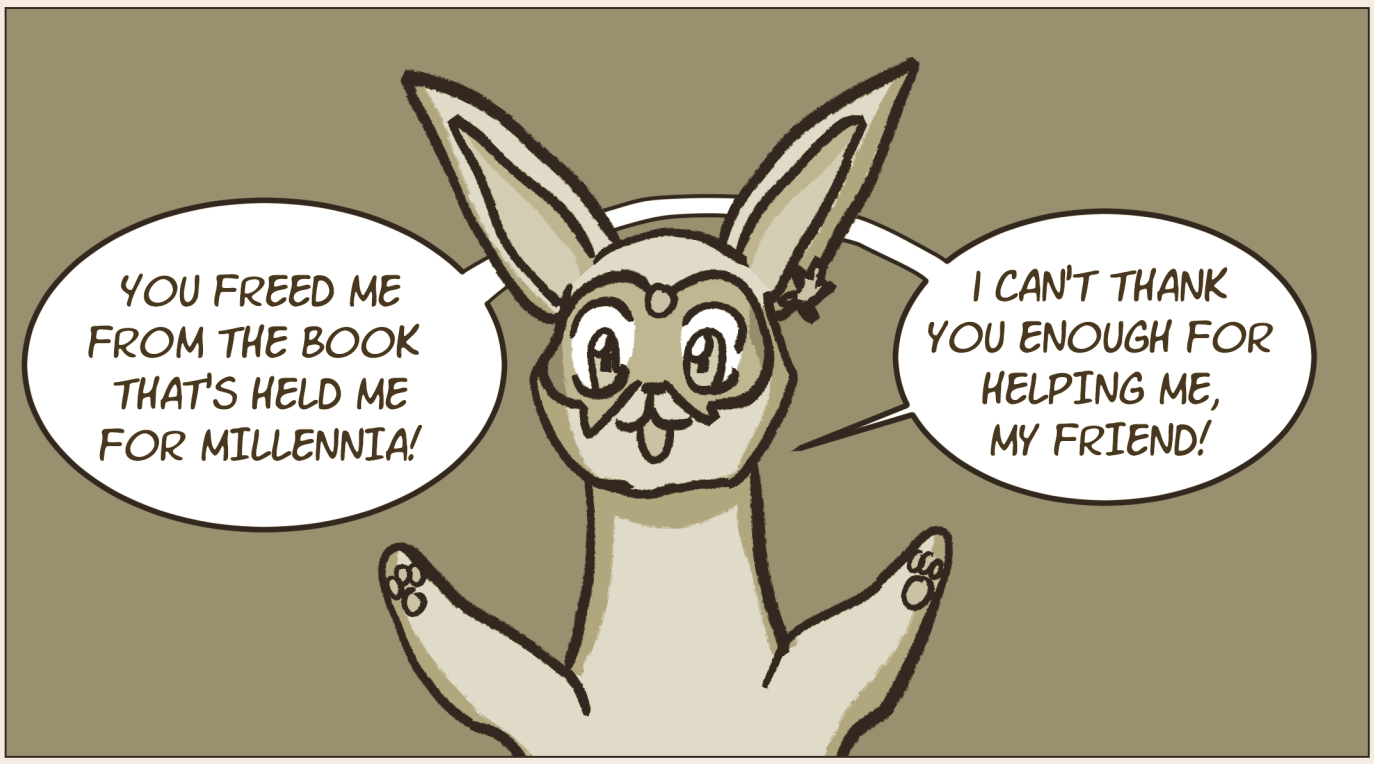







HELLO!
AAAHHHH!!

W-WAHH--!
WAIT A MINUTE, PLEASE DON'T BE SCARED!


YOU FREED ME FROM THE BOOK THAT'S HELD ME FOR MILLENNIA!
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR HELPING ME, MY FRIEND!

YOU'RE WELCOME?
BUT WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU DO TO ME?

AS THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, I GRANTED YOU POWER THAT WILL GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH YOU'VE ALWAYS DESIRED!
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL!?

Wiggle

Wiggle

Wiggle

NO! HOW DO I TURN BACK!? I CAN'T HAVE ANYONE SEE ME LIKE THIS!

TELL ME HOW TO TURN BACK!

OH... WELL, YOU SEE...

KNOCK KNOCK

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY IN THERE?

YES! I'M FINE! I JUST, UM, DROPPED SOME BOOKS!!

OKAY...
IF YOU NEED HELP CLEANING UP-
NO- NO! IT'S ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF, THANK YOU!

-Sigh-

ALRIGHT, BE MORE CAREFUL IN THERE.

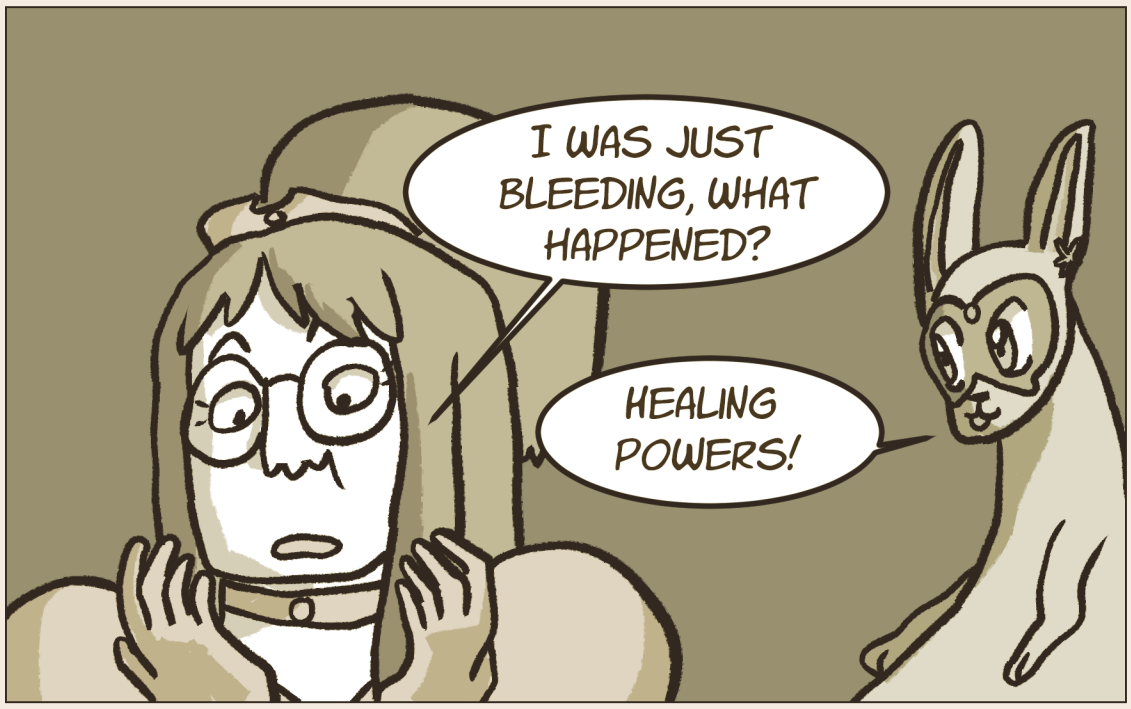
IF YOU BREAK THAT COOL KNIFE I GOT YOU, YOU'RE DEAD TO ME.

IT'S SAFE. DON'T WORRY.

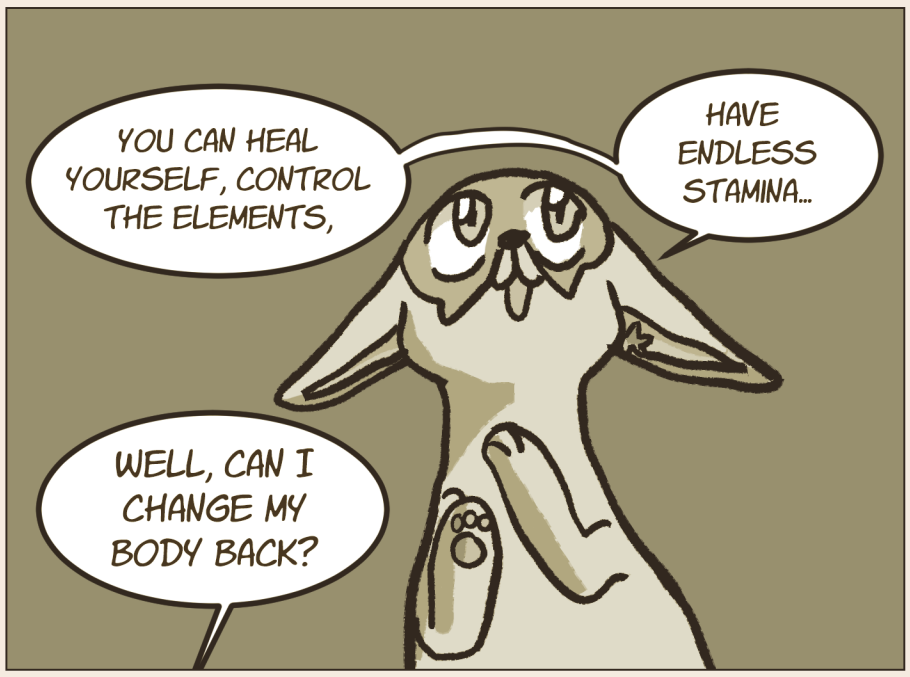
GOOD.

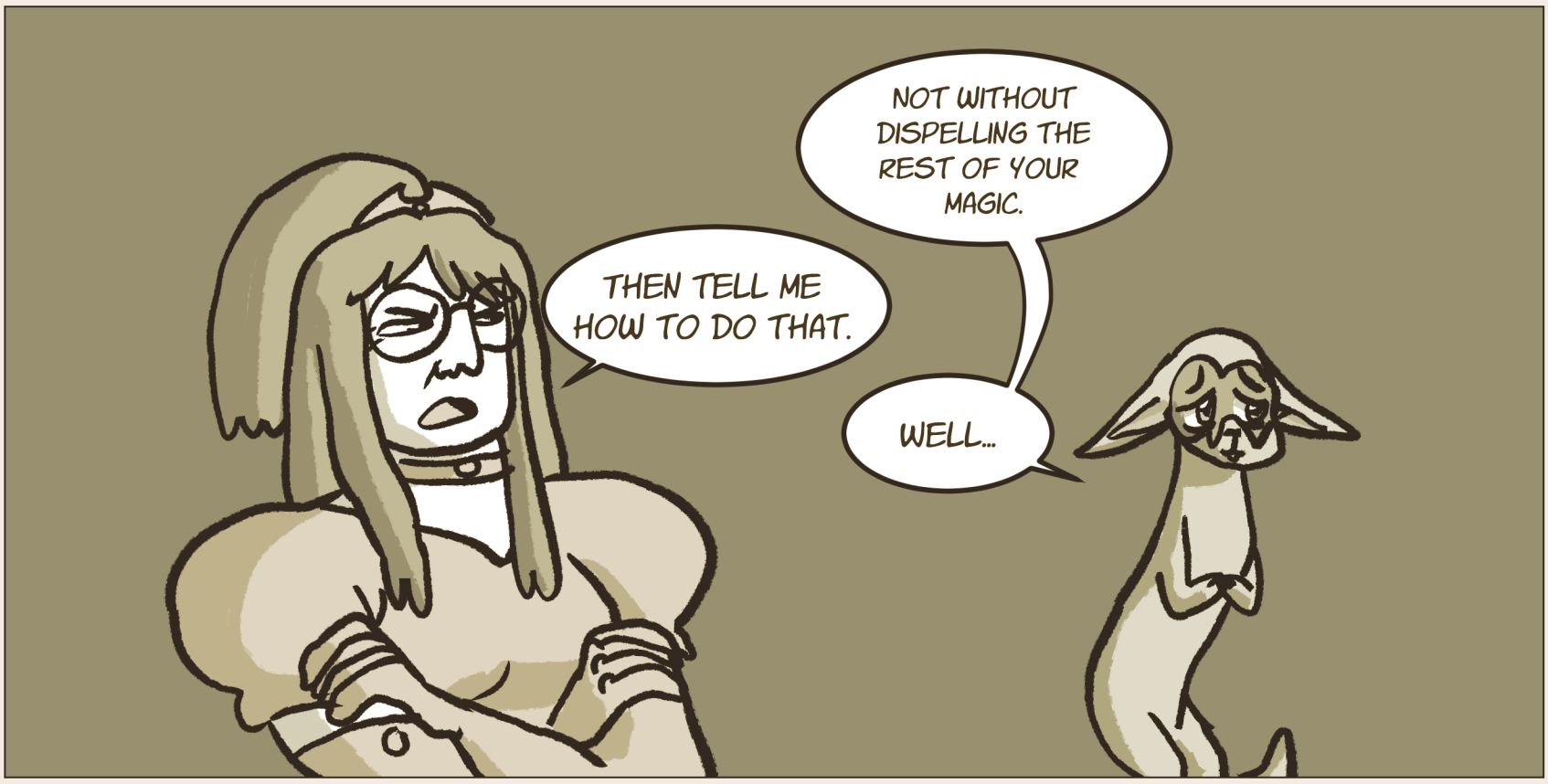
WELL, TRY NOT TO HURT YOURSELF, DUDE.

TOO LATE FOR THAT.

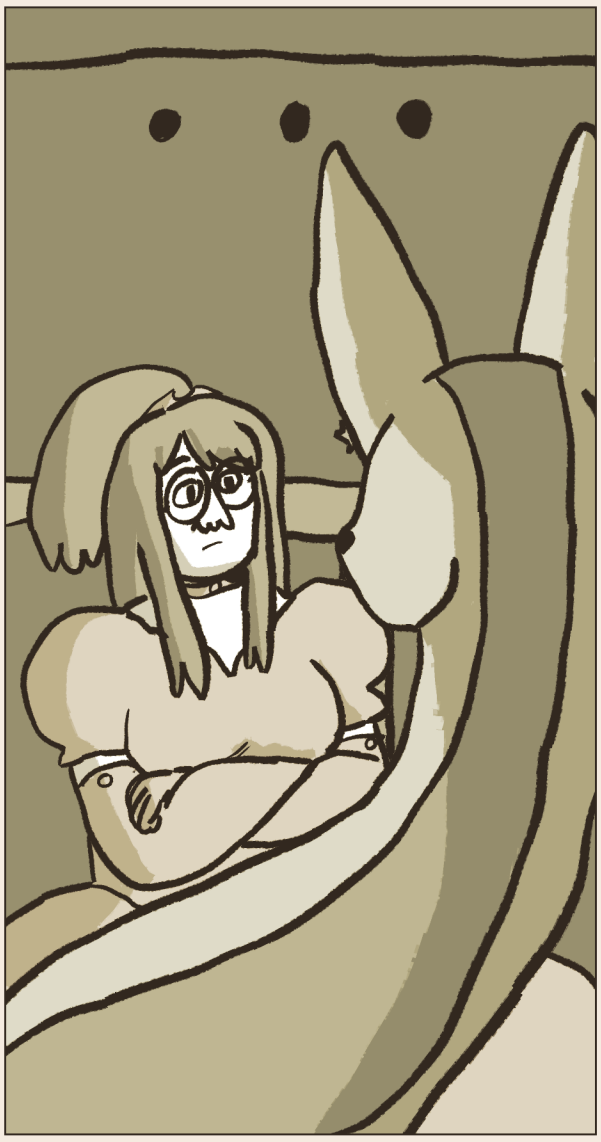

I WAS JUST BLEEDING, WHAT HAPPENED?
HEALING POWERS!

IT'S ONE OF THE MANY ABILITIES YOU NOW POSSESS.

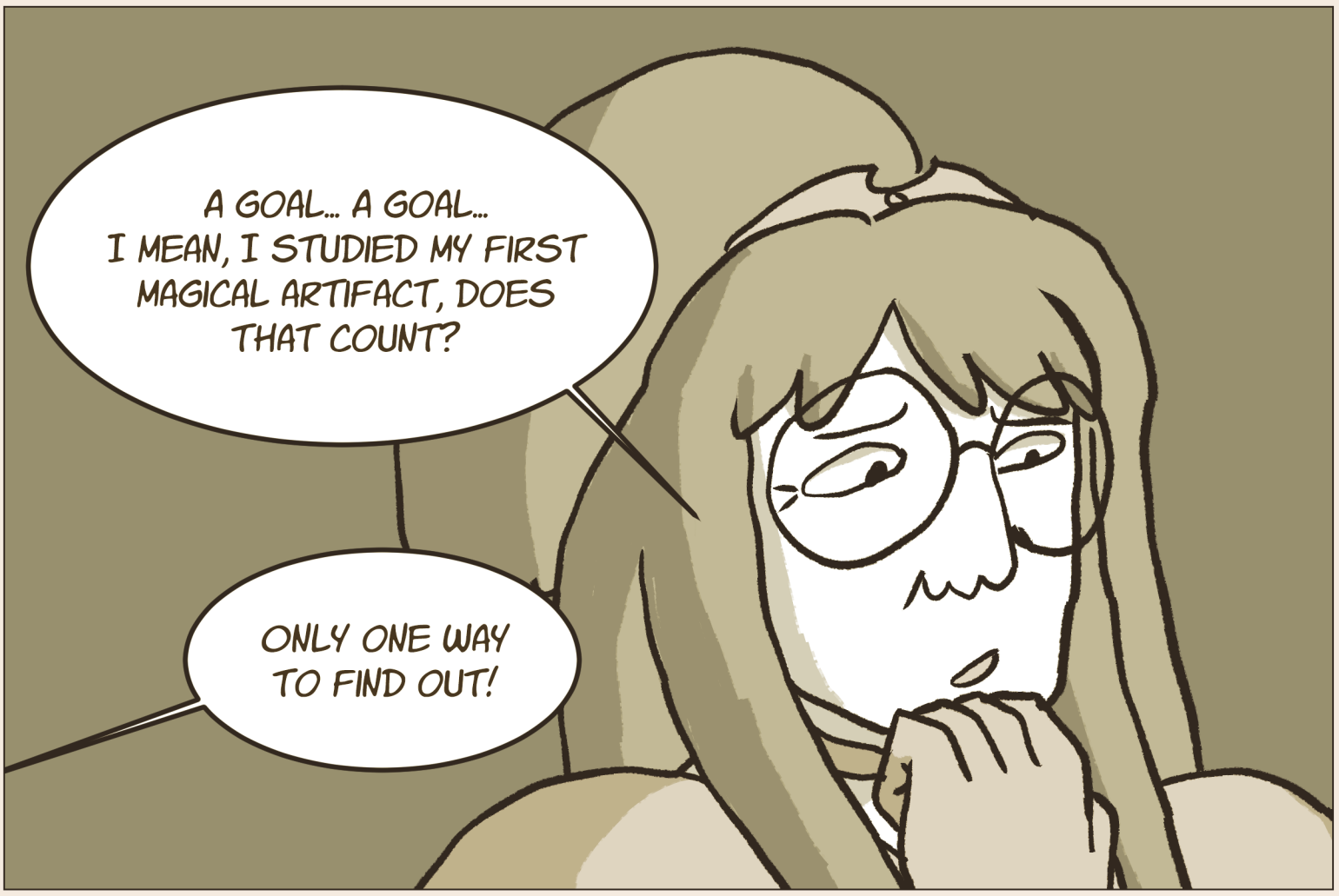

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF, CONTROL THE ELEMENTS,
HAVE ENDLESS STAMINA...
WELL, CAN I CHANGE MY BODY BACK?


NOT WITHOUT DISPELLING THE REST OF YOUR MAGIC.
THEN TELL ME HOW TO DO THAT.
WELL...

IN ORDER TO DISPEL THE MAGIC, FIRST YOU MUST ACCOMPLISH A GOAL



SO... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
EXACTLY WHAT YOU THINK! ANY KIND OF GOAL WORKS, BUT IT HAS TO BE IMPORTANT TO YOU. THEN, YOU HOLD SOMETHING MAGICAL, LIKE THE BOOK, AND SAY "DISPEL"!
THAT'S... ALL?
YEP!


A GOAL... A GOAL...
I MEAN, I STUDIED MY FIRST MAGICAL ARTIFACT, DOES THAT COUNT?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

OKAY, LET'S TRY IT.
NO BETTER IDEAS...

DISPEL

...

UGH! WHY DIDN'T THAT WORK?!

OF COURSE...

HM...

MAYBE BECAUSE IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE YOU TURNED?

SO WHAT ELSE CAN I DO EXACTLY? I'M STUCK IN THIS ROOM UNTIL I CAN CHANGE BACK.

IT'S NOT A CLOSET, IT'S MY OFFICE.

UM... ANY OTHER LIFELONG AMBITIONS YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH IN THIS CLOSET?

WHY CAN'T YOU LEAVE ANYWAY? IS THERE SOMETHING BLOCKING THE OUTSIDE? YOUR NEW POWERS CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT NOW.

NO, IT'S BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE THIS. I CAN'T JUST WALK OUTSIDE LOOKING LIKE A-A... *THIS.*

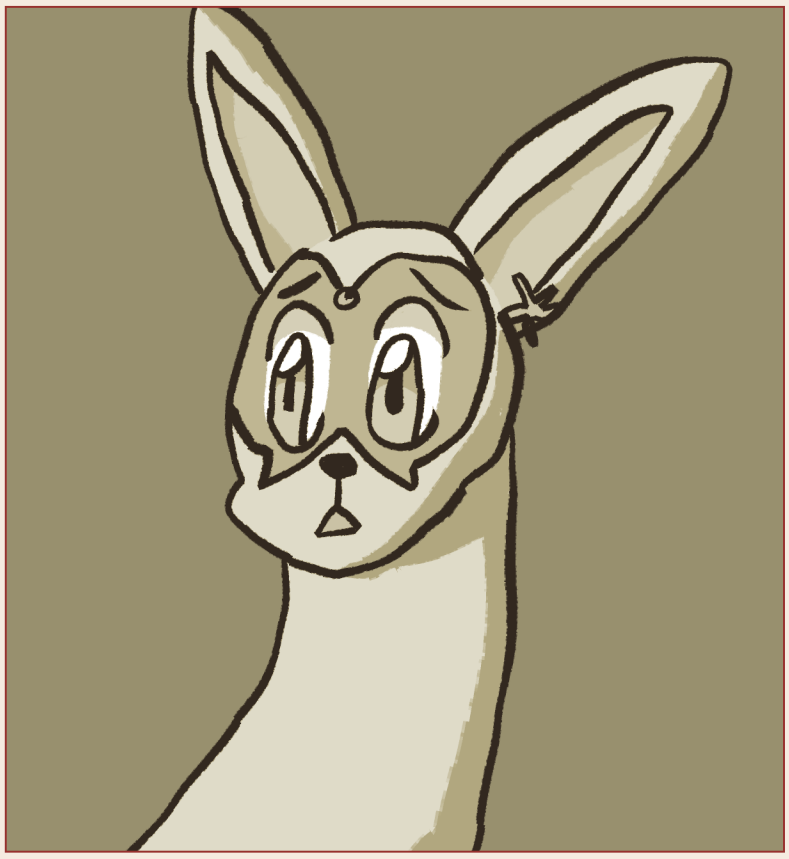
BUT THIS IS THE FORM THAT GIVES YOU THE MOST POWER! WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?

BECAUSE I'M NOT A- I'M NOT A-

I'M NOT A WOMAN!

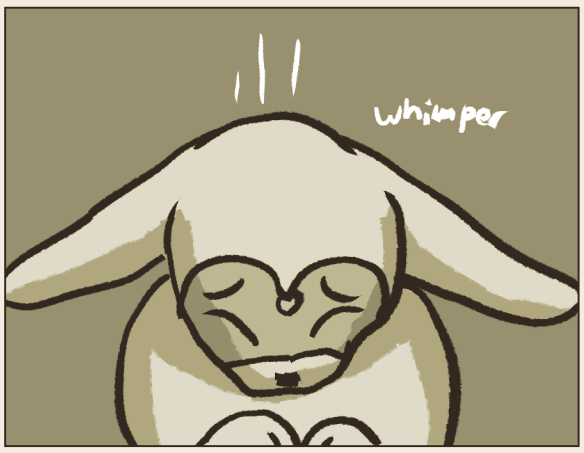
TEAR

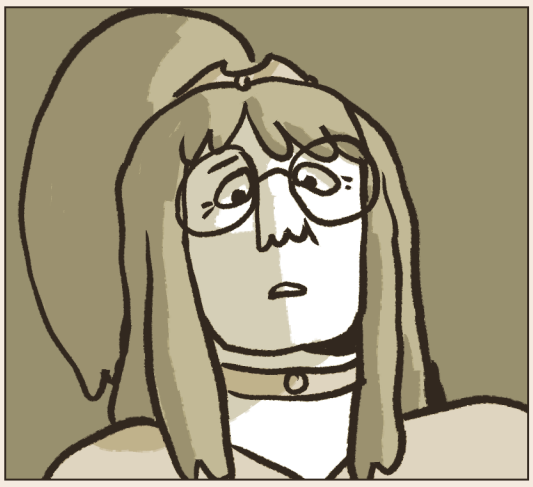
RIP



HEY... UM...

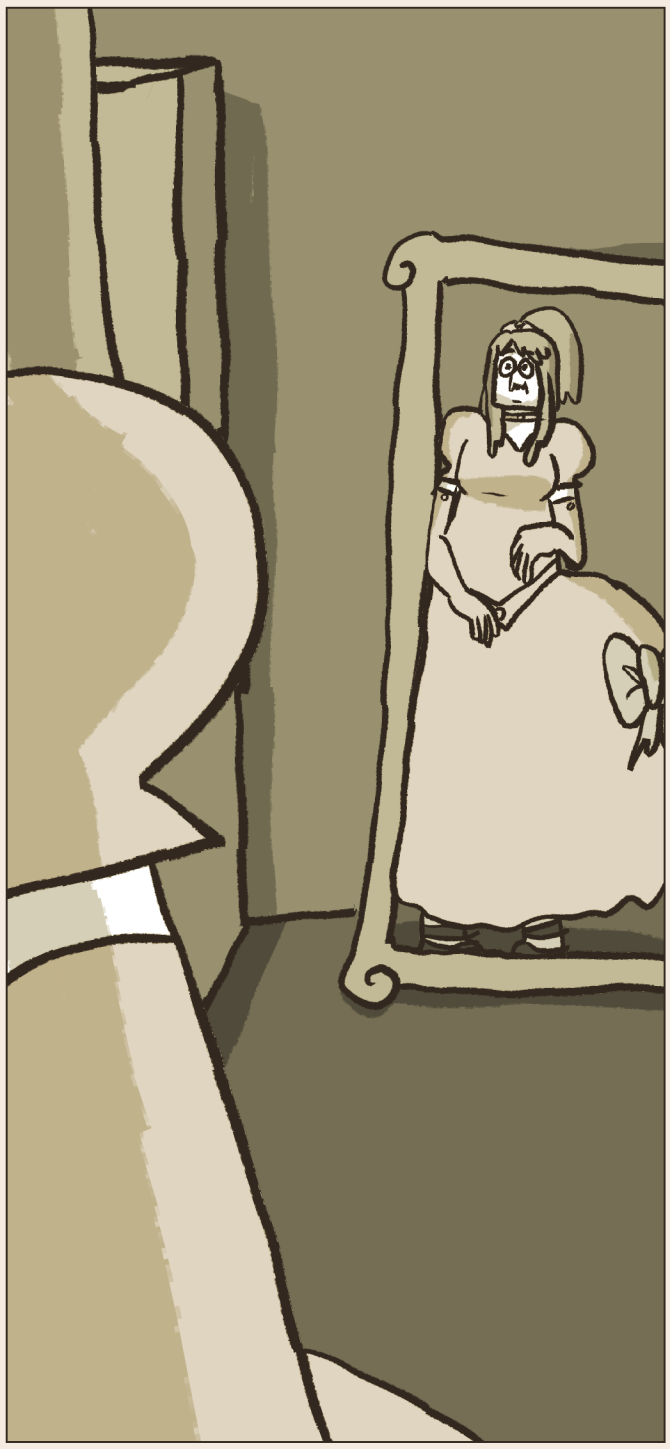
WHAT?! WHAT ELSE COULD YOU POSSIBLY WANT?

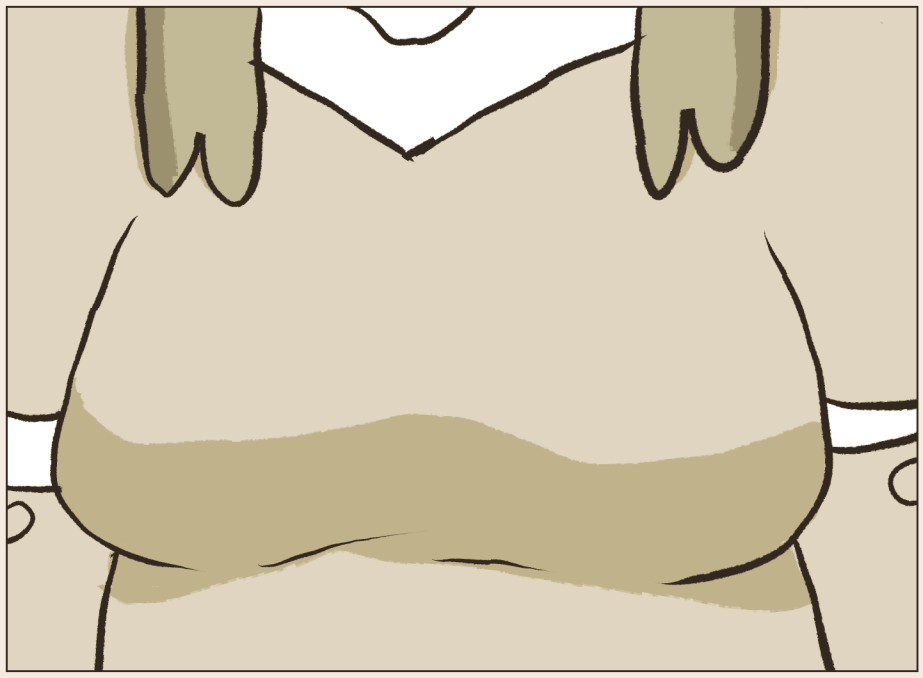

whimper

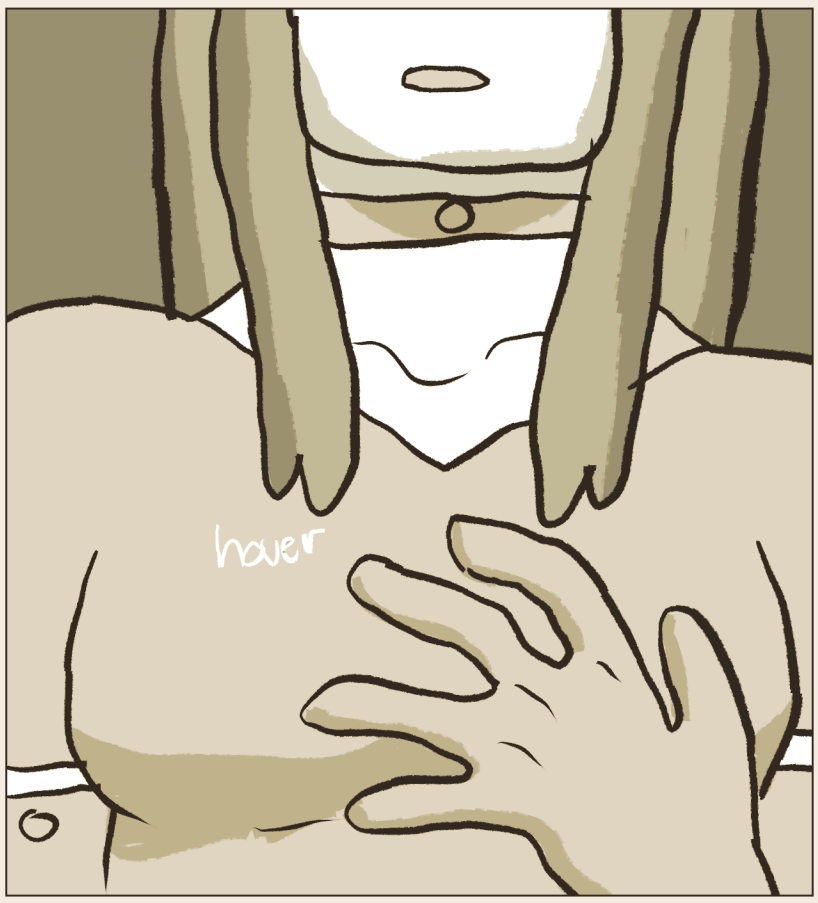


LISTEN, I'M SORRY. I'M JUST- VERY STRESSED OUT RIGHT NOW.
HELP ME DISPEL THIS AND I'LL BE FINE I PROMISE.

RIGHT... ALL WE NEED IS TO ACCOMPLISH SOME KIND OF GOAL.
ned
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT I CAN GIVE IT A SHOT.

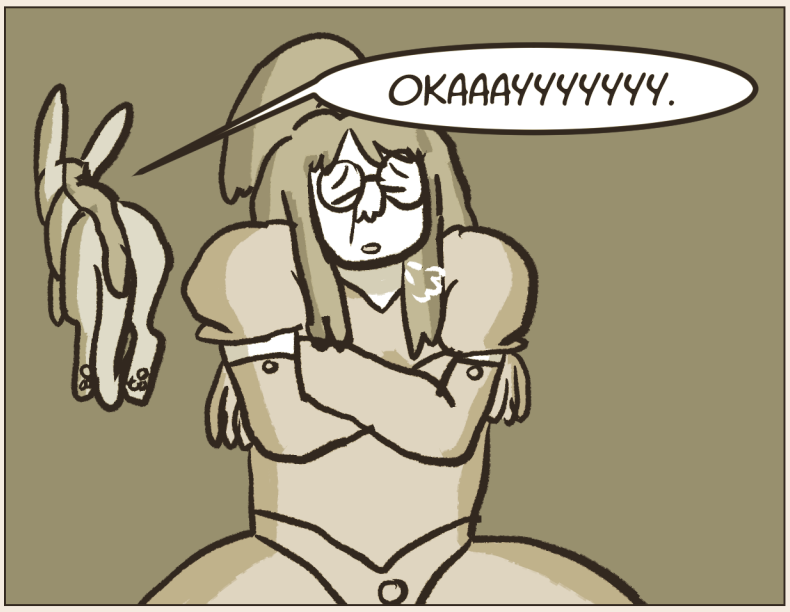


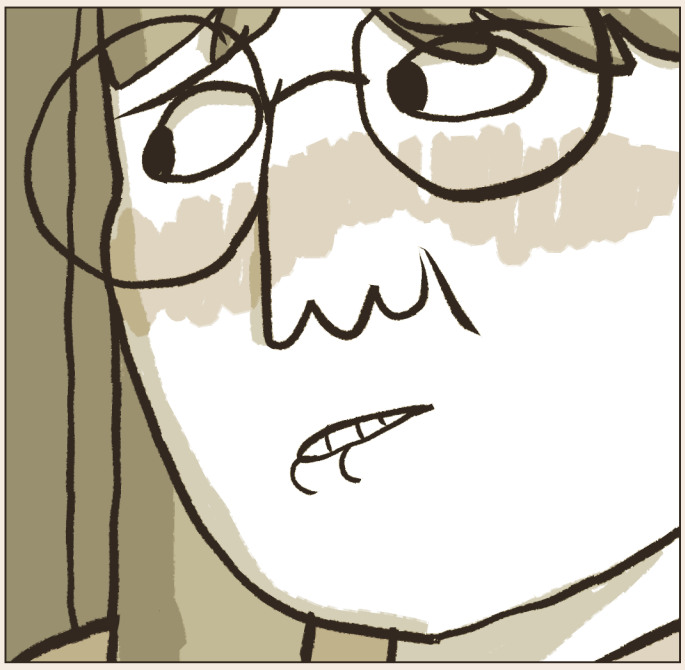



haver

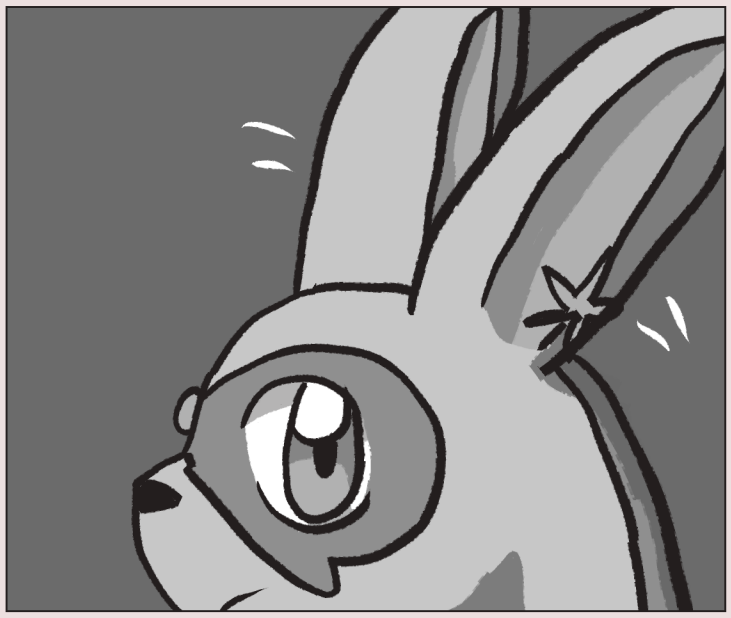
ANY IDEAS YET?
twitch

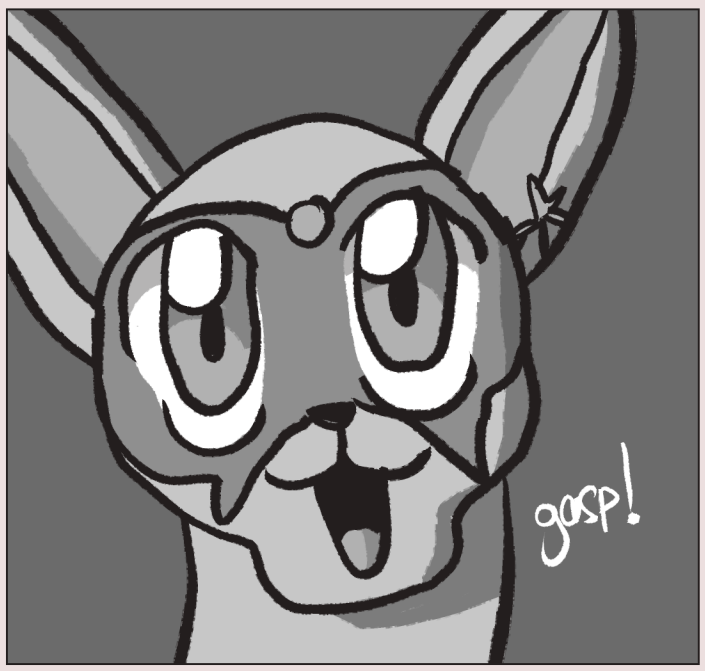
NOPE!
NO IDEAS
YET! NONE!


OKAAAYYYYYY.

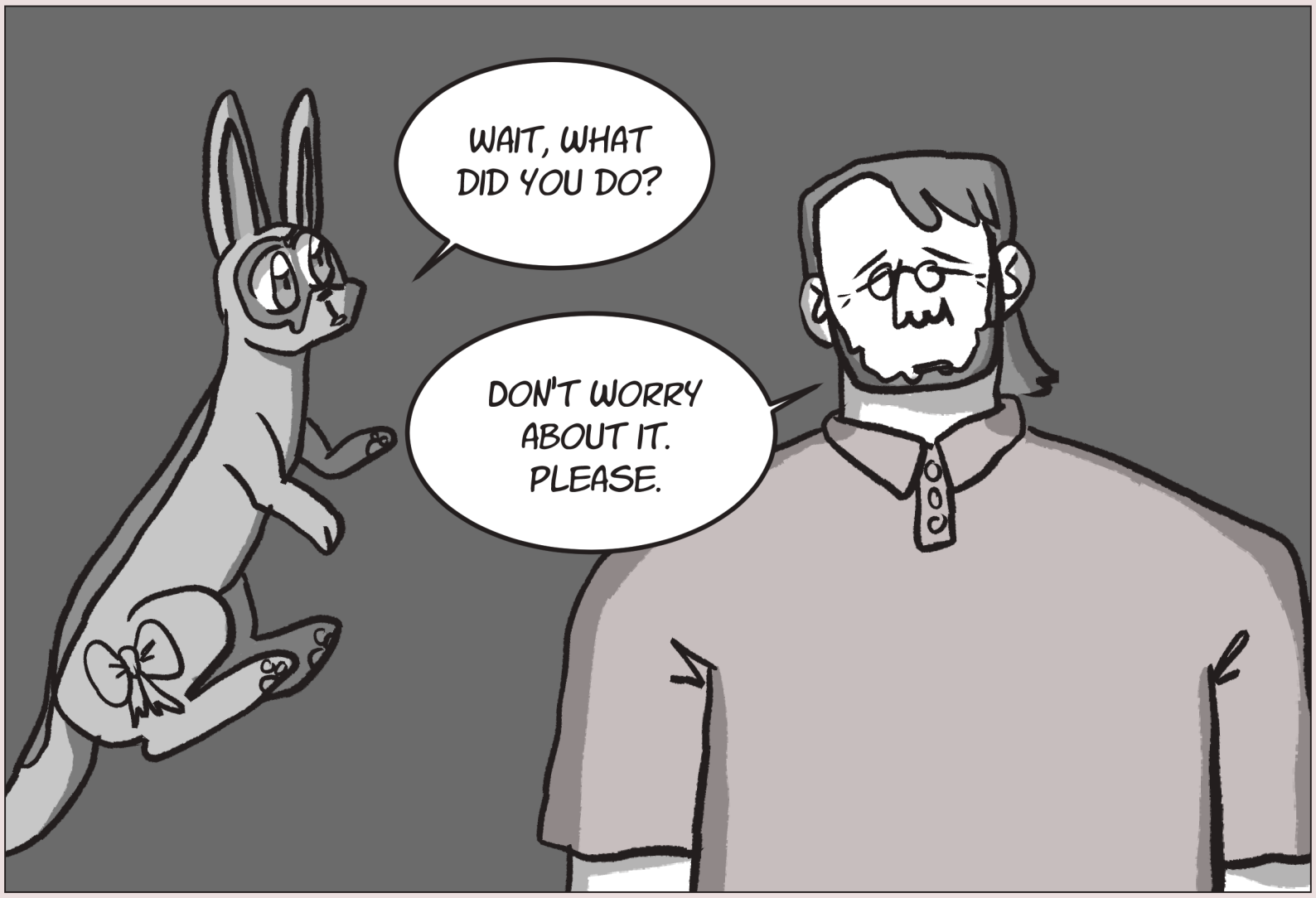


DISPEL.




gasp!

YOU DID IT!
YOU DID IT!

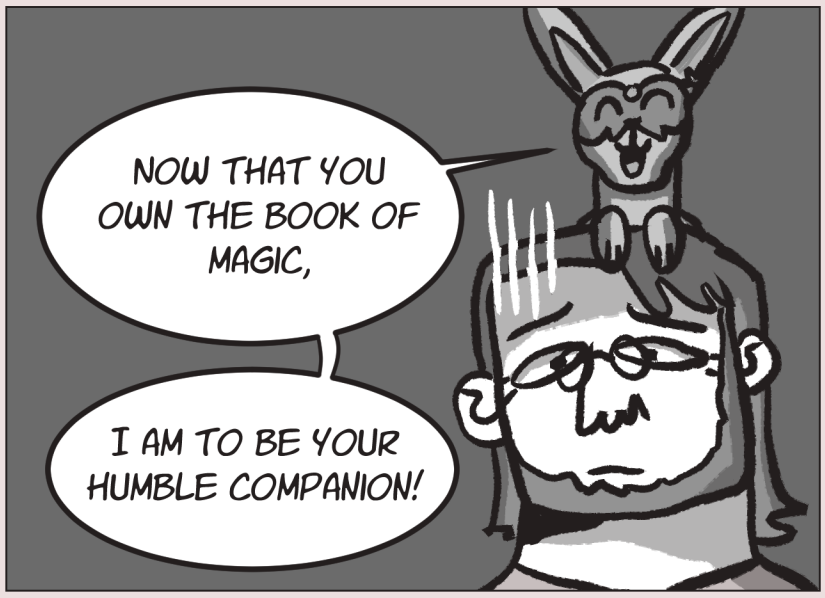

WAIT, WHAT DID YOU DO?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. PLEASE.

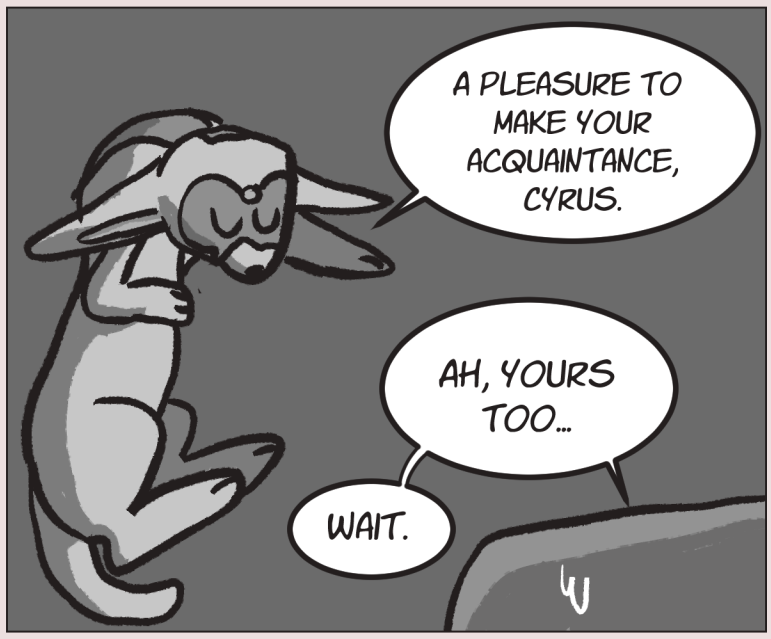
NOW I CAN FINALLY LEAVE THIS DAMN ROOM-

AND GO HOME.
UH...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

COME WITH YOU, OF COURSE!

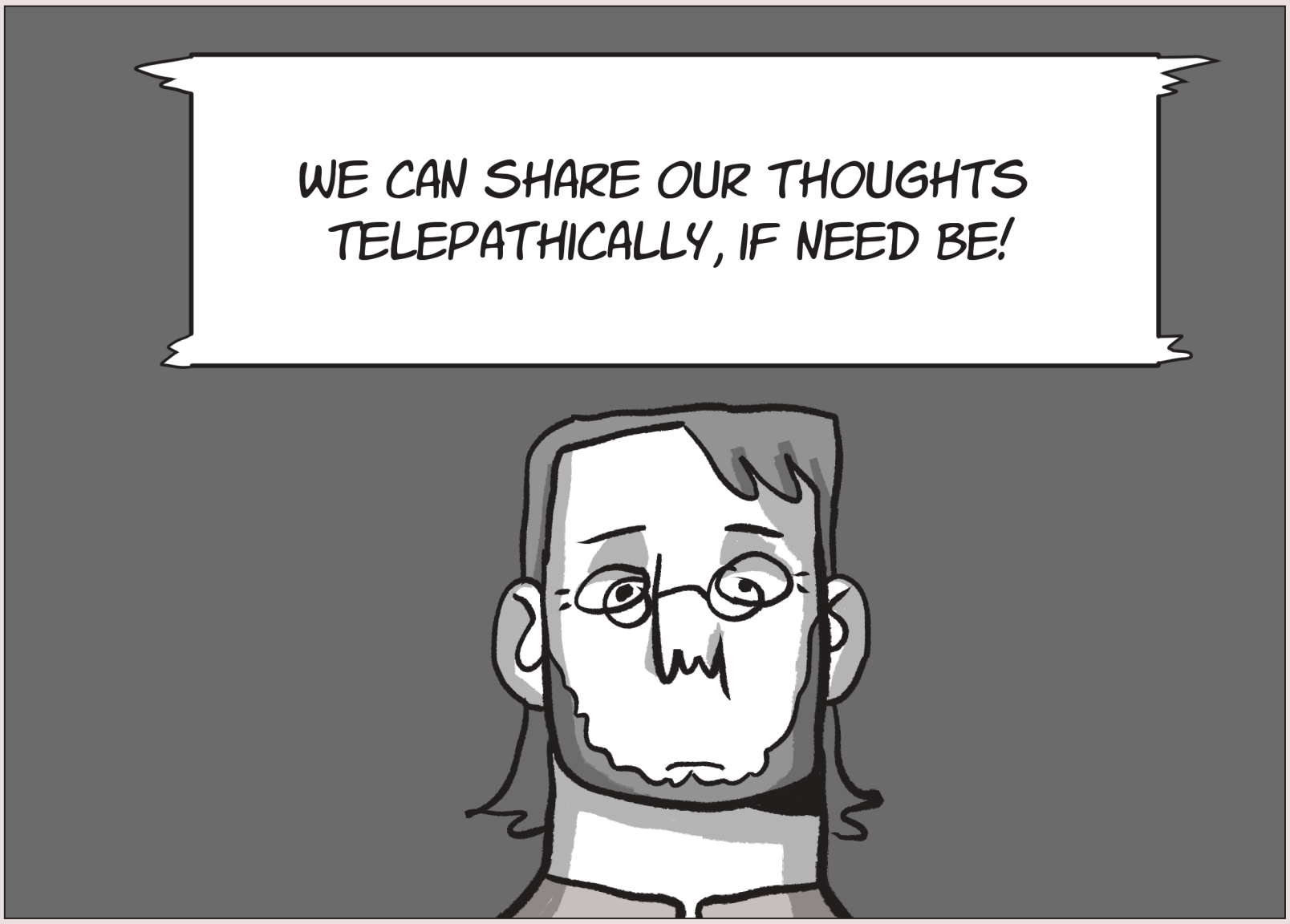

NOW THAT YOU OWN THE BOOK OF MAGIC,
I AM TO BE YOUR HUMBLE COMPANION!


A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, CYRUS.
AH, YOURS TOO...
WAIT.

I NEVER GAVE YOU MY NAME

YOU DIDN'T NEED TO.
AFTER ALL...

OUR MINDS ARE NOW PSYCHICALLY LINKED!


WE CAN SHARE OUR THOUGHTS TELEPATHICALLY, IF NEED BE!

I CAN ONLY HEAR THOUGHTS YOU'RE WILLING TO SHARE, OF COURSE.

THAT'S... GREAT...

I KNOW YOU'RE LYING, BUT IT TRULY IS!

OKAY. WELL. FINE. ANYWAY, I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME.

THAT'S BECAUSE I WAS NEVER GIVEN ONE.

OH.

SO WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?

ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE!

WELL... YOU'RE YELLOW... AND LONG...

OOH, I LIKE BANANA.

STOP READING MY THOUGHTS.

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT
ON THE WAY HOME, HOW ABOUT
THAT?